

March / April 2012

# adoption

opening hearts. changing lives.

INDIANA'S ADOPTION PROGRAM





# Opening hearts. Changing lives.

***During this edition of the Opening Hearts, Changing Lives Picture book we are featuring an adoptive family that has adopted multiple children!***

## **Meet Josh and Cori.**

Cori's mom worked for DCS for 36 years and was an adoptive parent. Cori and Josh were married for several years and were not able to conceive children and felt a call to pursue foster care and adoption. Cori was familiar with this process since she has siblings who were adopted. Josh was new to this experience but was very open to it. Cori and Josh were seeking a sibling group and interviewed for several children before they found their children, Davonta, Deon, Dale, and Marisha, on the internet. The children moved into Josh and Cori's home and their sibling, Darian was born. Darian was a premature baby but after a lengthy stay in the hospital, he eventually joined the family. Josh and Cori adopted the five children in 2001. They were licensed foster parents and continued to take foster placements. In 2002, their daughter, Miayah, was placed in the home. Miayah was nine years old at the time. Cori and Josh adopted Miayah two years later.

To Josh and Cori's surprise, they had their son, Ethan, who was born in 2004. They later added to the family through the birth of two additional children: Evan in 2005 and Abby in 2007. Davonta, Deon, Dale, Marisha, and Darian were all very welcoming to Ethan, Evan, and Abby. Although Josh and Cori still feel a strong desire to take in more children, they are very happy with the nine children they have in their home.



For Cori and Josh, there have been many challenges in their adoption journey. They have encountered many special needs; however, they met each challenge with courage, determination, and love. Cori believes she has benefited greatly from having a good support group and a quality counselor to help the children and parents through challenging times. They also live in a community that is supportive and are fortunate to have a school system that is responsive to the needs of each child.

Josh and Cori feel very blessed to have such a large and beautiful family. The children are happy and content. Cori shared her knowledge of the adoptive process by becoming a FAKT trainer (currently known as a RAPT Trainer) in northeast Indiana. She is now an Adoption Champion in northern Indiana helping to bring awareness to the need for adoptive families for children in foster care. Cori and Josh have certainly made an impact by opening their hearts and welcoming children into their family.

# Welcome to the Indiana Adoption Program

The Indiana Adoption Program is a statewide effort to create permanence for children who are wards of the State of Indiana. It is a program of the Indiana Department of Child Services in collaboration with the Children's Bureau, Inc.

There are many aspects of adoption and the Indiana Adoption Program is just one of those aspects. We will help you consider some aspects of adoption in this book.

The picture book is also available on the internet. To view a current list of children available go to <http://www.adoptuskids.org/states/in/index.aspx>. You may download a PDF copy of this "Opening Hearts. Changing Lives" Adoption Picture Book at <http://www.in.gov/dcs/2737.htm>

To learn more about Children's Bureau, Inc., see us on the web at: [www.childrens-bureau.org](http://www.childrens-bureau.org) or call for a brochure: 317-545-5281.

To mail correspondence to the Indiana Adoption program send to:

The Indiana Adoption Program  
c/o Children's Bureau Inc.  
3801 N. Temple Ave.  
Indianapolis, IN 46205

PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN,  
FAMILIES & FUTURE.

JAMES W. PAYNE, DIRECTOR



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## **If I inquire about a child, does this mean I will get to adopt this child?**

A prospective adoptive parent must have completed the Family Preparation process and be approved to adopt a child introduced in this book. If you are just beginning that process or have not yet begun, a child you see here may be living with a new family before you complete the Family Preparation process.

If you become their adoptive parent, a child's future development, well being, and sense of family and community will rest with you.

Therefore, adoption requires serious considerations.

The child's social worker or adoption team will help determine if you and your family are compatible with the child and there may also be several families that are considering the same child.

## ***Subscription Information***

You can receive a six-month subscription to this magazine by mailing a \$15 check along with your name and address to:

Children's Bureau Inc.  
3801 N. Temple Ave.  
Indianapolis, IN 46205

If you have any questions please call  
1-888-25-ADOPT.

## **Meet Our Children**

In this book you will see many different faces of youth. The words next to their faces only tell a partial story. Their biography is not complete. Any young person's story is worthy of telling you, yet what you read here about them is just a few short sentences.

The paragraphs next to each child are an introduction. Beyond the paragraphs, we want you to know the whole biography of a child when you are considering making a commitment as a parent; however here in this book we balance your need to know with a child's need for privacy and sense of well-being.

Children who have experienced foster care all have one thing in common: they have had to leave their home. And by that very fact alone, their need for healing, stability and nurturing requires attention. Children who have had to endure neglect, abuse, or trauma can face many challenges. Those challenges can range from mild to severe and can also be temporary or permanent.

The challenges our children face will not be detailed in the introductions. Listing a short medical or mental health diagnosis can sometimes be misleading and can breach confidentiality. You can read about some of the challenges that are common to many children in the adoption program in a separate section of this book.

In the adoption program, many of the children are older and may have physical, mental or emotional impairments. Some have brothers and sisters in the program with them and they may need to live together or they may need to keep their essential connection to each other through different living arrangements.

The youth featured in this book are in foster care and they may live with a foster family or they may be living in a group home or other child-caring facility such as a treatment center. Every child needs the love and support of a family. We invite you to learn more about adopting children in the Indiana Adoption Program.

You will see a number next to each child's introduction. Please refer to this number when making an inquiry about them.

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## **Chris (11) and Nicholas (10)**

Chris is a very friendly and outgoing little boy. He loves country music and likes to sing. He also likes playing with his cars and trucks and other toys.

Nicholas is shy at first but warms up once he gets to know you. He loves going to school and being around people. He likes to draw and write his letters.

These boys have many special medical needs and developmental delays due to injuries suffered in a house fire. Chris uses a wheelchair at school but is able to scoot around the house without his chair. Both boys need close supervision and assistance with all self-care tasks. Interested families will need to be able to provide structure, routine and a well-supervised environment. The home will need to be wheelchair accessible for Chris. (6096ABBD) *Madison County*



## **Simone (7), David (6) & Davion (4)**

Simone excels in school and loves to learn new things like reading and math. She is outgoing and very social. She enjoys dancing and playing with dolls. She is a good swimmer. Simone enjoys being a good helper towards her siblings. She is a very happy child.

David is curious and inquisitive. He is very outgoing and does well in school. He enjoys playing outside and his favorite sport is basketball.

Davion loves to play with his siblings. He is a fun-loving little boy and enjoys playing outside and coloring. He is good at listening and following directions.

These children will need structure, guidance, and nurturing from their adoptive home. They will also need someone to provide clear boundaries. (7058ABCIA) *Lake County*



### **Alex (16) & Nicole (14)**

Alex is a sweet, affectionate boy. He can write out his words and type them too, but mostly he uses sign language to communicate. If you tell him he can have one piece of cheese, he'll change your hand so that it is holding up three fingers instead of one. He is clever and has a hearty appetite! He is very ticklish and he loves spending time on the computer.

Nicole is a very gentle and sweet young girl. Though Nicole does not speak, she does smile. She likes to hear music, especially songs for children. She also enjoys having a roommate. She likes interactions with people and also likes objects that light up or make noise. She enjoys toys that stimulate her senses.

These children will need a family with an extended support system since they require 24/7 care. They need a family that can provide constant supervision and plenty of attention to their medical and physical needs. Families that are familiar with autism, cerebral palsy, and diabetes would be preferred. Single-parent and two-parent homes will be considered. (8047ABBD) *Madison County*



### **Jalen (10) and Aaliyah (9)**

Jalen wants to be a Marine when he grows up. He enjoys games, fishing, swimming, playing his recorder, eating cream of wheat, and watching Animal Planet. He does very well in school and especially enjoys Social Studies classes. Church is important to him and he has always wanted to go to Disneyland.

Aaliyah collects earrings and loves animals. She wants to be a veterinarian some day because then she could work with cats, dogs, and horses. She loves to listen to Selena Gomez and would like to visit California some day. Aaliyah's favorite color is blue and her favorite subject in school is spelling. She gets along well with her peers and likes to play and ride bikes with her neighborhood friends.

These children need a loving, stable home that can provide one-on-one attention, clear boundaries, and time for the children to adjust to their new setting. Two-parent homes are preferred, but single-parent homes will be considered. (8054ABSS) *Marion County*



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# Just Being Kids

Even though many of these children have experienced difficult things in their childhood, they still know how to have fun! They love to smile and, of course, make silly faces. Jeremy loves to tell jokes and play pranks. Abi loves to sing and dance. Rosie pretends to roll her eyes. Keirsten dons the prettiest fairy face paint she can find and Zen is quite a "Joker."



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## **Justin (10)**

When asked what he likes to do, Justin says he likes to, "swing on the swing and listen to the trees and the pond." He loves being outside, especially when he can jump on the trampoline. When he is inside, his favorite things to do are playing his Nintendo DS and doing anything relating to Pokemon. His favorite food is pizza and he loves to dance.

Justin needs a stable family who can be patient and provide him with a lot of time and attention. He would benefit greatly from having an active father figure. Justin will do best in a family with no other children or significantly older children. (3641BS) *Monroe County*



## **Christopher (13)**

Christopher enjoys family outings such as going to church, skating and going to amusement parks. He likes stuffed animals, especially dinosaurs. Christopher collects Pokemon cards and various game cards. He also likes playing video games, skateboarding, and going shopping. Christopher enjoys helping with household chores such as sweeping and mopping. Christopher is doing well academically and with his peers. His favorite foods from McDonald's are the hamburger and chicken sandwiches. Christopher's favorite movies are "The Goonies" and "Digimon" and his favorite cartoon is "Courage the Cowardly Dog." His favorite colors are blue, red, and green. He enjoys playing baseball and kickball, reading, and playing on the playground.

It would be beneficial for Christopher to be placed with two parents and preferably a home with older children or no children in the home. The family would need to provide patience, support, encouragement and guidance to allow Christopher in adjusting to the home. Christopher is very eager to have a family of his own. (36721A) *Lake County*



## **Jerry (11)**

Jerry is a pleasant, affectionate little boy who likes to give and receive hugs. He enjoys wrestling and rough-housing on the floor. He likes music and will dance and sometimes babble, trying to sing along. He likes to rock in his rocking chair or on a rocking horse. Jerry likes swinging and climbing into things he can sit in.

Jerry is a sweet little boy who needs a family that can be patient and loving with him. Families with an extended support system, and knowledge and understanding of developmental delays and autism are preferred. (3682BD) *Bartholomew County*

**Toby (10)**

Toby just learned how to swim, and would gladly take your hand and ask you to play with him, whether it is in the pool, on the trampoline, or on the computer. Toby is a friendly, outgoing child who loves to be helpful. Toby has made great strides with communication skills and activities of daily living. He is eager to please others and responds positively to attention and affection. Toby needs an experienced family that can provide structure, routine and close supervision at all times. A two-parent or family with a strong extended support system is preferred.

(3716MO) *Delaware County*

**Julie (14)**

Julie likes to draw pictures. She has an interest in art. Julie is active and enjoys spending time outdoors. She enjoys swimming, playing baseball, and jumping on the trampoline. She has participated in piano, tennis, and voice lessons. Julie is outgoing and friendly and has a warm personality. She is constantly smiling and loves to give and receive hugs. She is warm, playful, energetic, and helpful. One day she would like to enroll in gymnastics lessons.

Julie's sisters are an important part of her life. Julie would benefit from a two-parent home. She would do well in a family that is supportive, understanding, and committed to her.

(3718BS) *Crawford County*

**Felicia (16)**

Felicia is an intelligent, warm, and helpful young lady. She has a very friendly personality. Felicia is quite the athlete. She loves to stay active and enjoys playing volleyball and swimming. She has played sports in the past. She also likes to watch television and movies. She enjoys spending time with her friends and sisters.

Felicia would benefit from a two-parent home with no other children. A family that is supportive, understanding, and committed would be beneficial for her. The adoptive family will also need to be available and willing to maintain contact between Felicia and her sisters.

(3719BS) *Crawford County*



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## **David (17)**

David enjoys swimming, going to the movies, and playing in the park. He likes sports, including baseball and football. He likes going to concerts and listening to rap music. Don Pablo's is his favorite restaurant and he really likes going out to eat. David has a good sense of humor and makes friends easily. He enjoys positive attention from adults and enjoys one-on-one attention.

David says he would like to have a family that enjoys traveling and doing activities together. David will need a family that can provide a structured and supervised environment. He would do best in a family with no other children or older children. (3766BD) *Hamilton County*



## **Justin (15)**

Justin is interested in electronics. He is fascinated by cell phones and computers. He loves visiting websites on the internet and has even designed a few web pages of his own—one is about fire safety. Justin is a friendly and outgoing young man. He is very popular among his peers and adults. He enjoys watching television, playing outside, and being on the computer.

Justin needs a family that can provide stability, structure, patience, and consistency. A loving family with no children or older children would be ideal for Justin. (40001A) *Lake County*



## **Tiffany (17)** 🐾

Tiffany has a bubbly personality and lots of energy. She loves music and likes to sing and dance. She participates in choir and Show Choir at school. She loves to spend time with her friends, go shopping, and go to the movies. Tiffany has a deep love for animals and hopes to be a veterinarian someday. She hopes her new family will have cats and dogs. Tiffany enjoys going to church and participating in Youth Group.

She is looking forward to being adopted and hopes her new family will also be involved in church life. Tiffany would like to have older siblings to look up to. Tiffany will need a family that will be supportive and patient as she makes a transition into her new home. (4009BD) *Clark County*



Look for this symbol throughout our children's pages; it indicates that they have recorded a video message. You can view their video on-line at [www.adoptuskids.org/states/IN](http://www.adoptuskids.org/states/IN).

### **Kristian (12)**

Kristian is an energetic young man who loves to jump and climb. His favorite activities are playing on the jungle gym and in the water. Kristian also enjoys spending quiet time cuddled in a blanket and watching a Disney video or having a book read to him.

Kristian has been making progress with some activities of daily living and responds well to positive rewards. He will need a loving and patient family who will support this growth and can provide structure, routine and close supervision at all times. (4016KY) *Allen County*



### **Christian (16)**

Christian describes himself as easygoing and friendly. He is very talkative and likes helping others. Christian enjoys playing sports, especially football and basketball. He also likes to go fishing. Christian is intelligent and does well in school. His favorite subjects are reading and spelling. He loves to read mystery novels.

Christian would enjoy living in the country. He likes to be busy and needs a loving family that can provide consistency and structure, and can support him in his continued growth. Families with parenting experience are preferred. (4023MO) *Blackford County*



### **Devonte (16)**

Devonte is a charming young man who is eager to be adopted. He enjoys wrestling, football, and being active. Devonte has expressed an interest in joining a step team at school and wants to play the clarinet. He also likes to listen to music, watch movies, and explore the internet.

Devonte needs a family that can be patient and loving yet firm in their rules and expectations. He would do best in a two-parent home with a positive male father figure. Devonte has a brother with whom he will need to maintain contact. (4056KY) *St. Joseph County*





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## **Logan (16)** 🧑

Logan loves to talk and has a good sense of humor. He is very outgoing and enjoys interacting with both adults and peers. He enjoys taking trips, going to the movies, playing basketball, and eating out at restaurants. Logan's hobbies are playing video games and collecting Hot Wheels cars. He enjoys being outdoors and likes to do yard work. Logan has made a lot of progress in the last year and is currently on the A/B Honor Roll at school. He is interested in working with his hands and is considering becoming an auto mechanic.

Logan is at his best when he has a structured and consistent environment. Logan needs a loving family that can be attentive to his needs. He would do best as the only or youngest child in the family. (40571A) *Jasper County*



## **Dennis (10)**

Dennis is a charming little boy who loves to talk about dinosaurs, music, monster trucks, and the movie "Cars." He enjoys and is good at playing dodge ball, kickball, and basketball. Dennis likes to give and receive hugs and likes to tickle others and be tickled.

Dennis is very excited about getting a new mom and dad and likes to talk about what it will be like. He will need energetic parents that can be patient, and provide consistency and structure. His new family will need to be dedicated and willing to working diligently to form an attachment with Dennis. (4059KY) *Adams County*



## **Sylvester (10)**

Sylvester wants to be famous when he grows up! He hopes to be a basketball star or a musician. Sylvester is a very lovable, outgoing, and handsome little boy. In the summer he loves to play in the pool. He enjoys watching the Disney Channel, coloring, and dancing. Sylvester is bright and maintains good grades in school.

Sylvester needs a nurturing family that can provide stability, supervision, and appropriate medical attention. He would greatly benefit from a two-parent home. Sylvester needs a strong male figure who will be consistent with discipline and who is willing to spend a lot of one-on-one time with him. He would do best in a home where he is the youngest child. He needs a family with a lot of patience and love to get him through the trauma that he has experienced. Sylvester has siblings with whom he will need to maintain contact. (40631A) *Lake County*



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### **Cyerra (15)**

Cyerra is very exuberant and has a great smile. She has a good sense of humor and likes to laugh. She is full of energy and has many interests. Cyerra likes music and loves to sing and dance. She enjoys playing basketball, rollerblading, and doing crafts. Cyerra describes herself as a "girly-girl" in the sense that she likes getting her hair and nails done and loves to shop for clothes. She loves to sing and has a big voice! Cyerra has a love for animals and enjoys volunteering at the local animal shelter.

She would love to be part of a family that likes to be active and do things together. She enjoys helping around the house with chores and says she even likes to do dishes! Cyerra will do best in family that can provide consistent structure, boundaries, and consequences. Cyerra needs a family that can give her a lot of time and attention as she has missed this in her life. (4073BD) *Bartholomew County*



### **Brianna (13)**

Brianna is a very sweet and loving little girl. She very much enjoys one-on-one attention with adults. She can be very caring and empathetic to those she feels are less fortunate. She enjoys playing with baby dolls and likes to have her hair brushed and styled. She loves playing on the playground and playing basketball. She is very enthusiastic about going swimming!

Brianna needs a family that can give her a lot of care and attention. She needs a nurturing family that will be patient and encourage her to develop to her fullest potential. Parents with experience with special needs children are preferred. (4077KY) *St. Joseph County*



### **Lewis (14)**

Lewis has a good sense of humor, a beautiful smile, and a contagious laugh. Playing video games is one of his favorite activities. He likes being active and playing outside. Lewis enjoys sports and likes playing soccer and kickball. He has a wonderful imagination and is intelligent. His favorite subject in school is science. Lewis loves dancing, singing, and watching movies. In fact, he loves movies so much he would like to work in a movie theatre when he gets older.

Lewis would do best in a structured home that can offer stability and consistency. A family that is patient, understanding, and able to provide one-on-one attention would be ideal. Two-parent families are preferred. (4089IA) *Porter County*



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## **Michael (16)**

Michael likes to be out in nature and enjoys fishing, swimming, and camping. He also enjoys sports such as football, basketball, and soccer. Michael has a good sense of humor and likes to make people laugh. He likes drawing and is quite a talented artist. Michael is an avid reader and likes to read comics and all kinds of books, particularly scary books.

Michael very much wants to be part of a family and hopes to have a sibling or two as well as a pet. He will need a family that can provide structure and consistency and someone willing to assist him with his school work. Michael would do best with older siblings or as an only child. Two-parent families are preferred. (4090IA) *Porter County*



## **Cheyenne (16)** 🧑🏻

Cheyenne is friendly and affectionate and has an upbeat sense of humor. She enjoys playing basketball, watching television, listening to rap music, and going shopping. Cheyenne's favorite thing to shop for is shoes! She is very talkative and is not shy about expressing her thoughts and feelings. She enjoys school and says math is her favorite subject.

Cheyenne would like to join a family. Ideally she would like to have a mother and a father, but she is open to considering a single-parent or non-traditional family as well. Cheyenne needs a loving, patient family that can provide structure and consistent rules and expectations. Cheyenne has a sister with whom she will need to maintain contact. (4096KY) *Allen County*



## **Terry (13)** 🧑🏻

Terry loves to ride quad bikes. He also likes to play football and basketball and go fishing. In school, Terry likes math and reading classes. He gets along with his peers and adults, participates in school activities, and has a good sense of humor. Terry enjoys playing video games and watching movies. He listens to a variety of music, from country to rock'n'roll. Terry is very outgoing, funny, and playful. He likes dogs and cats. His favorite foods are fried chicken and mash potatoes and McDonald's cheeseburgers. The Lakers and the Patriots are his favorite sport teams.

Terry would thrive in a two-parent home or with a family that is able to show him affection and patience and provide consistency and structure. Having clear expectations and being placed with no other children or older children would be beneficial to Terry. (4098MO) *Rush County*



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### **Janicca (14)**

Janicca is a very bright and intelligent child. She enjoys going to school. She has made great progress socially and educationally. She does her chores and is very responsible. She enjoys going to church. Janicca likes to be witty and funny. She is good at expressing herself and will share with others how she is feeling. She loves having her hair and nails done and likes to do other "girly" things.

Janicca would benefit from being placed in a highly structured home with a single-parent or two-parent family and with older or no other children in the home. (5008MO) *Delaware County*



### **Jeremy (12)**

Jeremy is a lively, delightful conversationalist! He is a loving, affectionate little boy who is full of energy and likes to play sports. Jeremy says he, "loves, loves, loves, school!" He is doing well academically and gets along well with peers. Jeremy has a good sense of humor and can be very funny. He enjoys entertaining people around him. He is a big fan of Michael Jackson's music and will enthusiastically sing "Beat It" for the willing listener. When he grows up, Jeremy wants to play for the NFL until he retires, then he wants to go into the NBA. Jeremy is fascinated by iPods and MP3 players and would like to have one of his own. Jeremy likes to help others. Doing so gives him a sense of accomplishment. He likes animals, especially big dogs, and enjoys helping to care for them.

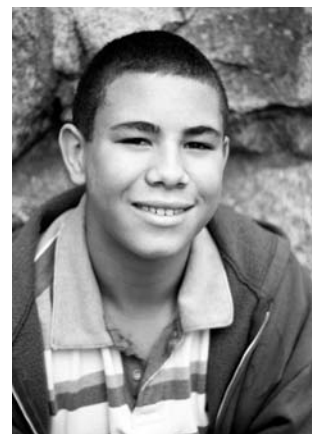
Jeremy is excited about joining a family and hopes to have both a mom and a dad. Ideally, he would like to live out in the country and be around animals. Jeremy needs a loving family that can provide structure, routine, patience, and security. (5014BS) *Knox County*



### **Brian (14)**

Brian is a bright young man who learns things quickly. He enjoys listening to music and singing. Brian likes to play on the computer, but also enjoys outdoor activities such as baseball and rock climbing. He loves to be the center of attention and is never at a loss for words.

Brian needs a family that will provide firm, loving boundaries and structure. He would benefit greatly from having a strong, positive male role model. (50261A) *LaPorte County*



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## **Trevionnte (9)**

Trevionnte is a happy and loving child. He enjoys receiving attention and giving hugs. He prefers to be indoors and he recently took three steps—quite an exciting accomplishment for Trevionnte!

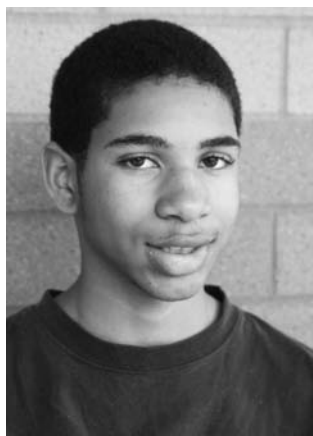
He would do best in a family that is able to work with medically fragile children or one that is familiar with Cerebral Palsy and developmental delays. (5035MO) *Delaware County*



## **Steven (12)**

Steven is an energetic and friendly little boy with a mega-watt smile! He is very excited about being adopted and joining a family. He likes to learn new things and says math is his favorite subject in school. He loves playing outside and playing football and basketball with his friends. Steven says, "I'm a really good artist and I like to draw!" He also likes helping others in whatever way he can. He thinks he would like to be a teacher when he grows up so he can help other kids. Steven loves to eat and some of his favorite foods are Big Macs, spaghetti and meatballs, and Chinese food. His favorite restaurant is Bob Evans and he loves their dinner rolls.

Steven needs a family that can be patient with him and provide structure and clear expectations and boundaries. Ideally, Steven would like to have a mom and a dad and be part of a family that has pets. Steven would do best in a home where he could be the only child or the youngest child. (5037MO) *Jay County*



## **Darrin (16)**

Darrin likes being outside, listening to music, and playing sports. His favorite sports include basketball, soccer, and baseball. Darrin also enjoys playing video games and watching "Sponge Bob Square Pants." Recently Darrin got five fish to go in the pond where he lives. He enjoys helping to care for them. Darrin is a quiet young man and enjoys having some personal space and time to process his feelings. He likes school and is making good progress academically.

Darrin needs a family that will continue to support his academic growth and allow him to have some personal space and time to himself. He likes pets and would benefit from learning to care for a dog or a cat. Darrin would do best as an only child or with perhaps one older child in the home. He needs loving parents that can provide structure and consistency. (5079SS) *Marion County*



### **Morgan (16)**

Morgan is friendly and likes to meet new people. She has a great sense of humor and can be very playful. She loves to sing and dance! Morgan also loves to go shopping, especially for clothes and shoes. She likes going to the movies and going to Golden Corral, her favorite restaurant.

Morgan says she would like to have both a mother and a father, and wouldn't mind having an older brother or sister to look up to. She will do well with a family that can provide structure and clear boundaries, rules, and expectations. (5084BD) *Clark County*



### **Brittany (15)**

Brittany loves to learn and works hard in school. Her teachers say that she is very helpful in class and gets along well with other children. Brittany likes having her hair done and wearing pretty clothes. She also likes playing outside, swimming, reading, and playing computer games.

Brittany is looking forward to having a family that can give her a lot of one-on-one attention. She likes doing family activities like going to the movies, taking walks, and playing games. Brittany needs a family that can provide structure, routine, and consistency. Two-parent families are preferred. (50901A) *Porter County*



### **Crystal (16)**

Crystal would like to be a foster parent when she is older so that she can share her experiences with others and teach children about forgiveness. Crystal is an intelligent and intuitive girl who enjoys going to church. Crystal also likes spending time with her friends and talking on the phone. Her favorite food is pizza and her favorite color is blue. Crystal enjoys the Twilight movies and books, and is looking forward to the continuance of the series.

Crystal prefers living in a city rather than in the country, but is most interested in being with a family that will love her and spend time with her. Crystal needs a family that can provide structure and clear boundaries and expectations. Crystal would benefit from being placed in a single-parent or a two-parent home with a family that is patient. She has siblings with whom she will need to maintain contact. (6001MO) *Delaware County*



# Opening hearts. Changing lives.



## **Damar (13)**

Damar is a creative, engaging young man who is eager to be adopted! He is friendly, outgoing, and very likeable. Damar enjoys music, playing video games, doing computer searches, and shopping at gaming stores. He thinks he might like to design gaming systems and games for a living someday.

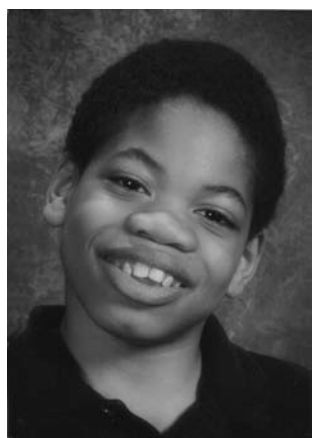
Damar is looking forward to having a father who will spend time with him doing things like working on electronics, playing video games, or going fishing. Damar needs a loving family that can provide consistent rules, boundaries, and expectations. He is at his best when he has a routine in a stable environment. Damar has a brother with whom he will need to maintain contact. (6004KY) *Allen County*



## **Ralph (12)**

Ralph loves all sports, but has a passion for baseball. He is a great player. He is full of energy and uses that energy on almost any outdoor activities, including riding his bike, fishing, and playing basketball. He also likes to play video games and read. Ralph is energetic and would do well in a family that is active.

Ralph needs a family that will not give up on him. He needs consistency, structure, and unconditional love. His new family should also understand that he bonds through things he loves, like sports. Ralph would thrive in a setting where his parents are committed to his studies. Both single-parent and two-parent families will be considered. (6017BS) *Greene County*



## **Roger (14)**

Roger is a very helpful young man. He enjoys helping his foster mother around the house by cleaning and assisting with the laundry. He loves to read books and enjoys having others read to him. Roger has become involved in Irish dancing through a local church and greatly enjoys that activity. Roger gets along well with others and loves receiving attention.

Roger needs a family that can be patient and will nurture his development. A two-parent home that can provide supervision and consistency would be ideal. Families with knowledge and understanding of developmental disabilities are preferred. (6023KY) *St. Joseph County*

### **Akeem (17)**

Akeem enjoys sports, video games, and playing on the computer. He also likes to play basketball and go bowling. Akeem is shy with strangers, but likes to joke and tease with people he knows. He is caring and creative and likes to help others. He has a good sense of humor and likes to make others laugh.

Akeem needs a loving supportive family that is willing to advocate for his educational needs and support services. Akeem will do best in a home where he is the only child.

(6039BD) *Bartholomew County*



### **Marisa (16)**

Marisa loves animals and hopes to be an “animal cop” when she grows up. Marisa is very active and likes to keep busy. She enjoys swimming, camping out, and going to new places. Marisa likes reading, drawing, and shopping! She likes school and says her favorite subject is math.

Marisa needs a loving family that can provide structure, consistency, and stability. Both single-parent and two-parent families will be considered. (6040BD) *Scott County*



### **Rose (12)**

Rose has a bubbly personality and a great laugh! She is friendly, energetic, and very intelligent. She likes school and does very well academically. Rose loves reading books, doing arts and crafts, and singing. She enjoys being outdoors riding her bike or doing other outdoor activities. Rose loves being the center of attention and gets along well with adults and peers.

Rose will do well with an active, loving family that can provide structure, consistency, and clear expectations. (6045BS) *Knox County*



# Opening hearts. Changing lives.



## **Summer (14)**

Summer loves to give and receive hugs. Though shy at first, she actually loves being the center of attention. She describes herself as a “country girl” and would enjoy living out in the country and having pets. She likes to play games and is known among her friends as a “card shark.” Her favorite card game is Rummy. Summer enjoys being outdoors and likes playing soccer, softball, and going fishing.

Summer needs a family that can provide structure and stability. She thinks she would be most comfortable with a single mother, but she is open to other families as well as long as they are able to give her a loving home. (6046BS) *Dubois County*



## **Dustin (16)**

Dustin is a very compassionate and caring young man. He enjoys playing football, swimming, and fishing. He likes listening to music, playing video games, and drawing. Dustin likes to have fun and enjoys participating in activities with both peers and adults. He likes being outdoors and enjoys working in the yard.

Dustin is eager to join a family and would like have both a mom and a dad. He would like to have siblings and hopes his new family will have pets. Dustin needs a loving family that will set clear boundaries and expectations and advocate for him educationally. (6054SS) *Marion County*



## **Brandon (13)**

Brandon is a good student and an excellent speller who likes to show off his abilities. He enjoys attending school and doing his homework. He also likes playing video games, drawing, and making comics. Brandon is very much into martial arts and has received a black belt in three different arts!

Brandon is a friendly, polite, and respectful young man who needs a family that will continue to encourage him and can give him a lot of time and attention. Brandon would like to have both a mother and a father. He would do best in a home where there are no other children, or with younger children. (6064IA) *Lake County*

### **Brandon (15)**

Brandon is bright and creative. He even invented his own board game! Brandon has a great personality and loves to joke and tease. Brandon likes playing video and computer games, fishing, and playing sports. He likes being outdoors and enjoys gardening and bee keeping.

Brandon needs a family that can provide a structured environment with clear boundaries and expectations. Two-parent families are preferred. (60651A) *Starke County*



### **Brandon (16)**

Brandon is a friendly young man and a good conversationalist. He enjoys being with others and loves one-on-one attention. Brandon works hard in school and says science is his favorite subject. He likes to write and has even written some poetry.

Brandon is eager to be adopted and longs to have a sense of belonging. Ideally he would like to have both a mother and a father. Having a positive male role model would be of great benefit to him. Brandon needs a family that will be patient and supportive as he transitions into his new family. (60661A) *LaPorte County*



### **Brennen (14)**

Brennen is a talented, outgoing young man who likes drawing, singing, and acting. He enjoys reading poetry and is good at creative writing. His favorite outdoor activities include playing basketball, tossing the football, and fishing. Brennen likes working with wood and says when he grows up he wants to be a carpenter, a mechanic, or a basketball star!

Brennen needs a family that can be patient and supportive, allowing him time to transition into his new home at his own pace. He thinks he would do best in a home where he can be an only child or have older siblings. Brennen has a grandmother with whom he will need to maintain contact. (6067KY) *Adams County*





# Opening hearts. Changing lives.



## **Brandy (11)**

Brandy is very friendly and outgoing. She enjoys being the center of attention and loves to talk! She likes to play all kinds of games and enjoys being outdoors. Brandy has an independent nature and has a creative side. She loves singing, dancing, and learning to cook new dishes. She is very bright and likes learning new things in school. Brandy would love to be part of a two-parent family and is wishing for a big sister. Her face lights up when she talks about animals and says she would really like to help care for a pet.

Brandy will do best with a family that can provide close supervision and guidance. She will benefit from a stable home environment where there is a consistent routine with clear expectations and boundaries. She will do best in a home where she can be the youngest child.  
(6069BS) *Vigo County*



## **Brandon (15)**

Brandon is a Colts fan and enjoys both watching and playing sports, especially football and baseball. He is a friendly young man with a shy smile and enjoys spending time with friends, riding his bike, playing video games, and learning about cars. Brandon is capable of doing well in school and says his favorite classes are math and gym. He plays the trumpet and is a member of the school band.

Brandon is looking forward to being adopted and having a permanent family. He does best with kids his own age or older and is really hoping to have a brother! Brandon likes animals and would enjoy being in a home with pets. Brandon needs a family that will stick by him and provide a structured environment with clear boundaries and expectations. Brandon has sisters with whom he will need to maintain contact. (6073KY) *Allen County*



## **Victoria (11)**

Victoria is a shy little girl with a sweet smile. She loves to draw and enjoys writing in her journal. Victoria likes to go fun places and visit friends in their homes. She likes playing with Bratz dolls and playing video games and board games, especially Monopoly. Victoria does well in school and says her favorite subjects are science and reading.

Victoria is looking forward to being adopted and hopes her new family will do fun activities together. She would like to have her own bedroom and she would like to paint the walls baby blue. She says she hopes her new family will be nice and have a swing set. Victoria needs a loving family that can give her a lot of time and attention. She will likely need to make a slow transition into her new home so she can feel secure. Victoria has siblings with whom she will need to maintain contact. (6075KY) *Allen County*

### **Nathan (15)**

Nathan likes to know how things work and enjoys taking things apart and putting them back together. He likes to be helpful and often offers to set the table for dinner. Nathan loves horses and likes to care for them, even if it means cleaning the stalls! He also likes skateboarding, NASCAR racing, and watching movies. Nathan can be a sweet, loving boy. He likes to engage in one-on-one activity with adults. Nathan likes playing basketball and is a Pacers fan.

Nathan needs a family that can provide a safe, stable home environment with good supervision and clear expectations and boundaries. Nathan has a brother with whom he will need to maintain contact. (6086DH) *Putnam County*



### **Paul (11)**

Paul is a friendly and kind little boy who likes to help others. He is known for helping his peers with their school work or even with their chores! Paul likes playing video games and reading comic books. He likes being outdoors and playing basketball with his friends too. Paul enjoys school and is making mostly A's and B's on his report card. He enjoys science and learning about space. He likes rap music and says one of his favorite artists is Lil' Wayne.

Paul needs a loving family and would benefit greatly from having positive adult role models. He will do best with a family that will be supportive and encouraging. He needs a stable home with structure and consistent rules and consequences. (6089BD) *Madison County*



### **Damont (14)**

Damont is a sweet and lovable boy. He enjoys playing video games and playing football. He likes school and is a capable student. Damont is eager to be part of a family and enjoys participating in activities with his foster family. He enjoys participating in church life and hopes his new family will share this value.

Damont needs a loving family that will make a permanent commitment to him. He is at his best in a structured environment with clear boundaries and expectations. (6099KY) *Allen County*



# Opening hearts. Changing lives.



## **De'Angelo (15)**

De'Angelo is creative in many areas including art, sculpture, music, and poetry to name a few! He is gifted at drawing cars and airplanes. During the summer he enjoys playing basketball and football. During the winter he uses his energy to build forts, pack snowballs, and make snow angels.

De'Angelo needs to feel a true sense of belonging with a strong family that can dedicate themselves to meeting his multiple needs and helping him develop a sense of self-worth. De'Angelo will do best in a home with a consistent routine and structure, as well as clear boundaries and expectations. (7000SS) *Marion County*



## **Andrew (13)**

Andy likes to draw things and then give his drawings to others. He is a bright young man who is very creative, artistic, and athletic. He is very likable and has a good sense of humor. Andy has a great imagination. He can be very kind and giving. Andy loves animals and says his favorite animals are dogs, cats, and bunnies. He likes watching the Colts, building with Legos, and collecting Hot Wheels cars and Bakugans. Andy has an interest in the military and would like to build or design machines someday.

Andy needs a family that can provide clear boundaries and expectations as well as good supervision. He would benefit from having a strong, positive male role model. The family best suited for Andy will be able to commit to spending the time necessary to bond with him and help him feel secure while he heals from past traumas. (7004BS) *Monroe County*



## **Robert (16)**

Robert is a bright, articulate young man who loves playing sports. He is friendly, outgoing, and loves to be the center of attention. Robert's favorite sport is basketball and he hopes to play on a team once he joins his new family. Robert is eager to be adopted and has stated, "I want to be part of a family that loves me for who I am and enjoys doing things I like." Robert especially hopes his new parents will want to attend his school athletic events to support him when he plays. In addition to sports, Robert enjoys playing video games and spending time with friends.

Robert hopes to be part of an active two-parent family either as an only child, or with other children near his age. Robert has siblings with whom he will need to maintain contact. (7010BD) *Bartholomew County*



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### Da'Jaion (10)

Da'Jaion has a cheerful demeanor and a contagious laugh! He enjoys playing with small toys, especially ones with lights and sound. While he cannot walk independently, Da'Jaion utilizes a wheelchair and a stander. He is able to scoot around on the floor and can cover ground pretty quickly! Da'Jaion can drink from a sippy cup and feed himself finger foods.

Da'Jaion needs a loving family that can provide 24-hour supervision and total care for him. Families with knowledge and experience with special needs children are preferred. (7016KY) *Allen County*



### Zen (15)

Zen is a friendly young man with a shy smile. He describes himself as an "outdoorsy kind of person." His favorite outdoor activities include hunting, fishing, camping, and riding dirt bikes. He likes sports and enjoys both playing and watching football, basketball and baseball. Zen likes school and says his favorite subjects are math and science. He thinks he would like to join the army one day and perhaps become a weapons technician.

Zen gets along well with other children and says he would really like to have an older brother or siblings near his age. He would like to have both a mom and a dad, but is open to being part of a single-parent family as well. Because he loves the outdoors so much, Zen would love to live in a rural setting. He likes animals and would enjoy being able to have pets too.

An active family that likes outdoor activities and sports would be a good match for Zen. He will do best in a home that has structure and communicates clear boundaries and expectations. He would benefit greatly from having a strong, positive, male role model. Zen has some birth family members with whom he would like to maintain contact. (7018BS) *Knox County*



### Kelttin (17)

Kelttin is a very polite and friendly young man. He communicates well with adults and gets along well with authority figures. He does not mind doing chores and is always willing to help others. He is intelligent and enjoys learning new things. Kelttin likes school recently began making Honor Roll. He likes reading and writing stories, working with computers, and tinkering with electronics. Kelttin enjoys playing soccer and has played on high school teams. When he gets older, Kelttin is thinking of joining the Air Force. He would like to be a pilot and has always had an interest in flying.

Kelttin needs a family that can be patient and understanding while also providing structure and clear boundaries and expectations. Ideally he would like to have a mom and a dad, but is open to single-parent households as well. Kelttin likes animals and would enjoy having pets and helping to care for them. (7022BD) *Hamilton County*



# Opening hearts. Changing lives.



## **Matthew (16)**

Matthew likes being outdoors and enjoys playing sports, camping, and landscaping. He is very interested in electronics and likes playing video games and being on the computer. Matthew loves music, dancing, and art. He is a big eater and he likes to cook when he has the opportunity.

Matthew would like to be part of a family. He will need a family that can provide structure and clear boundaries and expectations. He would benefit greatly from having strong, positive male role models in his life. (7027SS) *Marion County*



## **Valerie (12)**

Valerie is a quiet young girl who is very creative. She likes doing arts and crafts and enjoys working on different projects. She is a good artist and likes to do drawings and paintings.

Valerie would like to be part of a family and hopes to have both a mom and a dad, but is open to single-parent families as well. Valerie would like to have siblings and gets along best with older children. Valerie needs a loving family that can provide a stable environment with consistent boundaries and expectations. Valerie's new family will need to be patient and supportive as she transitions into her new home. (7034KY) *St. Joseph County*



## **Candie (13)**

Candie is a bright little girl who is very curious and likes learning new things! She enjoys school and is on the A/B Honor Roll. Candie is very interested in art and likes drawing and doing art projects. She also likes playing basketball, swimming, and riding her bike. Candie says she likes being outdoors and is not afraid to get dirty! She likes climbing trees and digging in the dirt for worms. Candie likes music and is an avid fan of Taylor Swift and Hannah Montana.

Candie is looking forward to being part of a family and ideally she would like to have both a mom and a dad. She will do best in a home that can provide structure and clear boundaries and expectations. Candie likes animals and would enjoy helping to care for a pet. (7036BS) *Knox County*



### **Nathan (12)**

Nathan is a lively boy with energy to spare! Nathan is bright and inquisitive and has a good sense of humor. He likes to help others and likes to please adults. Nathan enjoys hands-on work and would do extremely well working alongside a father figure. He enjoys playing with and working with electronics. He loves the outdoors and likes fishing, biking, and camping. Nathan loves animals and likes to help care for them and play with them.

More than anything, Nathan wants to be adopted and to have a permanent family. Nathan is looking for a family that will stick by him and give him a sense of belonging. Nathan might be at his best as the youngest child in the family, or in a context where he could be the main focus. He is affectionate and responds to firm, loving boundaries and consistent discipline. Nathan has a brother with whom he will need to maintain contact. (7040BD) *Bartholomew County*



### **Emily (10)**

Emily likes to go to the park and play on the swings. Her foster mother describes her as, "the sweetest little girl in the world!" Emily is unselfish and generous and likes to help others. She likes school and says her favorite subjects are reading and math. Emily likes to read, sing, and play outdoors. She wants to be a police officer when she grows up because "they are nice and they help people."

Emily is an affectionate little girl who needs a family that can provide structure, consistent rules and consequences, support, and encouragement. Emily has siblings with whom she will need to maintain contact. (7041KY) *Allen County*



### **Joshuah (12)**

Josh is looking forward to being part of a family that will enjoy spending time with him. He likes going to new places, playing catch, and watching television. He enjoys playing video games, wrestling, and playing outdoors. Josh also likes drawing and playing with toy cars and action figures.

Although Josh would love to have a mom and a dad, he would also be open to a single-parent family. He enjoys attending church and participating in church life. Josh needs a loving family that can provide structure and close supervision. (7045KY) *Allen County*



# Opening hearts. Changing lives.



## **Vince (7)**

Vince is a sweet, loving little boy who likes to cuddle and play. He has a bright smile and enjoys interacting with people. Vince likes playing with musical toys, playing with puzzle shapes, and jumping on the trampoline. He is very mobile and likes to walk while holding on to things or crawl around on the floor. Vince is able to communicate using gestures and some sounds.

Vince needs a loving family that will work with him to achieve his full potential. He needs a family that can provide 24-hour care for all his basic needs. Families that have experience caring for medically fragile children are desired. (7046SS) *Marion County*



## **Jerome (12)**

Jerome is a very likeable, easygoing young man. He is bright and does very well in school. He is active in extra-curricular activities and especially enjoys theatre and being in school plays.

Jerome is eager to be adopted and would like to have siblings if possible. He would like to be part of an African-American family says he would be most comfortable with a single mother. Jerome needs a loving, nurturing family that will support him as he deals with grief and loss issues, and also help him achieve his potential. (7048KY) *St. Joseph County*



## **Jasmine (12)**

Jasmine is active and energetic and loves to sing and dance! She enjoys being the center of attention. Jasmine is outgoing and friendly and gets along well with other children. She likes shopping and playing with her dolls.

Jasmine wants to have a normal life and longs to be part of a family. She will need a family that will be patient and nurturing as she continues to heal from past trauma. (7051KY) *Allen County*

### **Morgan (14)**

Though shy at first, Morgan can be very charming and friendly once she gets to know you. She likes to be active and enjoys playing sports such as volleyball and basketball. Morgan is very bright and is a good student. She likes spending time with friends, listening to music, and going to movies. She also likes playing board games, doing craft activities, and working on her scrapbook. Morgan loves animals and has even been a volunteer for the local animal shelter.

Morgan thinks she would do best with a single mom and hopes to have other children in the home near her age. She needs a family that can provide structure and understanding as she adjusts to her new home. Morgan has a sister and a grandfather with whom she will need to maintain contact. (7054MO) *Randolph County*



### **Sean (14)**

Sean is a great musician and plays the trumpet. He loves being around animals, especially horses. His hobbies are stamp collecting and fishing. He also enjoys swimming and boating. Sean likes to play basketball for fun, but currently does not have a favorite basketball team. Sean's favorite food is Subway and he does not like Chinese food. Sean has an above average IQ. Sean can be very helpful, friendly, and outgoing in the right setting.

Sean would benefit from a loving, nurturing home with a strong male role model. If the family lived in the country it would be an added perk for Sean. (8004BD) *Hamilton County*



### **Breion (13)**

Breion enjoys art and drawing pictures. He likes to play games on the computer. He has a very active imagination. He has a very strong sense of determination and likes to be able to try new things. He spends his days playing basketball, swimming, and making new friends. He especially enjoys arts and crafts.

Breion is an easygoing child who likes to talk, be listened to, and feel as though what he says matters. He likes to play basketball and football and enjoys jumping on the trampoline. He has a strong interest in art.

Breion would benefit from a two-parent home with a structured and consistent schedule. (80061A) *Lake County*



# Opening hearts. Changing lives.



## **Justin (13)**

Justin is very sweet-natured. He has a great sense of humor and a great smile. Justin takes pride in accomplishing something new and he takes pleasure in his positive traits. Justin plans to play on a softball team during the summer. He would like to maintain contact with his brothers and current foster parents. Justin is very loving and caring towards his siblings and caregivers. He has a close bond with his friends and family.

Justin, with assistance, is able to identify and compartmentalize tasks that he needs to complete. Justin enjoys activities that stimulate his growth and development. (8008BS) *Vanderburgh County*



## **Sarah (14)**

Sarah is friendly, outgoing, and has a good sense of humor! She likes staying busy and having her time structured. She is very social and likes to surround herself with positive people who are willing to encourage her and push her to be the best she can be. Sarah is honest and genuinely cares for others. She loves animals and thinks she might like to become a veterinarian one day. She is very creative and enjoys singing, dancing, writing poems, and creating art.

Sarah is proud of her academic achievements and hopes to be part of a family that will value her accomplishments and strive to help her increase her independent living skills. Sarah is a strong, intelligent young lady who knows what she wants and will never settle for less! (8011KY) *St. Joseph County*



## **Nathaniel (15)**

Nate enjoys reading, especially science fiction and fantasy books. Nate also has a great interest in Greek mythology. He is very creative and enjoys all types of art. He has made drawings, paintings, and ceramics. Nate is currently taking an art class after school. He enjoys music, being outdoors, and watching movies. Nate has attended several plays, which he enjoyed. Although he has never gone camping, Nate has expressed an interest in trying it. Nate is very creative and intelligent. He is very compassionate with animals. Nate has worked with horses and enjoyed it very much. Nate is also started taking Taekwondo classes and just received his yellow belt.

Nate would benefit from being in a home that can foster his interests and introduce him to new things. (8012KY) *Steuben County*

### Jennifer (17)

Jennifer has a wonderful sense of humor and loves to play practical jokes. She relates well with peers and adults. Jennifer enjoys doing arts and crafts and coloring. Jennifer also likes fishing, drawing, shopping, attending movies, talking on the phone, and watching television. She is very friendly. She is shy when meeting new people, but when she becomes comfortable in social situations, she becomes talkative and engaging.

She would like to live on a farm with animals. She enjoys chores related to taking care of pets. She especially enjoys caring for bunnies and horses.

Jennifer needs a home to provide her with love and attention. (8014BD) *Jennings County*



### Victor (16)

Victor has a winning smile and enjoys giving back to the community through his volunteerism. Volunteering is very important to Victor. Victor likes animals and his favorite animals are horses.

Victor enjoys being around people and plays well with children of all ages. He has many interests including, drawing, doing puzzles, taking bike rides, and participating in sporting activities. Victor likes to be active and has participated on both soccer and basketball teams. Victor likes to assist in preparing meals and his favorite food is pasta. Victor would like to be a Marine when he grows up.

Victor will do well in a two-parent or single-parent home. The family would need to be patient and flexible as this would help Victor transition into the home. Victor's family will need to be loving, stable, and supportive of Victor and his interests. (8018MO) *Delaware County*



### Jhourice (13)

Jhourice is very calm and laid-back. He is inquisitive at times and has the desire to learn new things. His goal for the future is to become a veterinarian. He loves to play video games. He is very artistic and likes playing basketball. Jhourice likes animals, especially dogs, and reptiles. His favorite foods are fajitas and tacos.

Jhourice can be very determined and consistent. He would greatly benefit from a family who is patient, consistent, and positive role models. A permanent home with a stable caregiver who can devote one-on-one time would be very beneficial for him. Jhourice wishes to maintain contact with his maternal grandmother, several aunts, uncles, and cousins. (8021BD) *Madison County*



# Opening hearts. Changing lives.



## **Rosann (14)**

Rosann is a very affectionate and loving child. She has a great sense of humor. She likes to play basketball and volleyball. Rosann loves to be the center of attention. She likes listening to music. She has participated in praise dancing and enjoys the youth groups at church. Extracurricular activities are important to Rosann as she enjoys being active in various community groups and school sport teams.

Rosann can initially present as shy, but friendly. She tends to get along better with either younger children or much older children.

Rosann has stated that she would like a family that is active, can play basketball with her, and is able to participate in extracurricular activities with her. She would like to have siblings. An ideal family for Rosann would need to be patient, consistent, active, and able to dedicate time to nurturing a solid relationship with Rosann. (8024KY) *Elkhart County*



## **Keirsten (15)**

Keirsten is an outgoing and active child with a lot of personality. She enjoys being around people and animals. Keirsten is a skilled artist and enjoys singing and playing the guitar. Keirsten also enjoys various sport activities like soccer, volleyball, and basketball. She likes to read and write poetry. Her favorite books are the Twilight series. She enjoys going camping and on road trips. Her favorite color is purple. She likes Chinese food and Mexican food.

An ideal family for Keirsten would be either a single-parent or two-parent family with younger children. The family should be supportive and patient and be able to provide a structured and nurturing family life. (8027BS) *Daviess County*



## **Jose (15)** 🧑🏻

Jose is polite and friendly. He is a great speller and does well in school. He likes to play video games, construction games, and do puzzles. Jose likes to help around the house doing chores like making his bed, cleaning his room, taking out the trash, and cooking. He has expressed interest in working on cars and would like to be a mechanic when he is older. Jose likes dogs and enjoys watching "Animal Planet." His favorite colors are blue, red, green, and orange. Jose's favorite foods are meatloaf and spaghetti. His favorite places to eat are Red Lobster and Golden Corral. He likes county music and going fishing.

Jose would thrive in a two parent home that is able to provide structure, affection, and stability. The family would need to be clear with their expectations and be very consistent. It would be beneficial for Jose to be the youngest in the family or to be in a home with no other children. (8032SS) *Marion County*





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### Jeremy (11)

Jeremy loves to draw and is very artistic. He likes to go swimming. He is charming and connects well with others. Jeremy is highly intelligent and creative. He can be affectionate and caring towards others. Jeremy is doing well academically and his favorite subject is art. Jeremy's favorite movie is "The Incredible Hulk." He loves building things using Legos. He enjoys playing with toy cars and trucks. Jeremy also likes to play the Xbox.

Jeremy will need a two parent home that will be patient, supportive and participate in his educational needs. The prospective parents must provide consistent, clear directions and allow Jeremy to explore his creative and artistic talents. Jeremy responds well to positive reinforcement and one-on-one attention. Jeremy does well with older or younger children in the home. (8033SS) *Marion County*



### Dakota (15)

Dakota is an intelligent, athletic teenage boy with a good sense of humor. He is very competitive and enjoys playing basketball and with his yo-yo. Dakota also likes to lift weights and play video games. His favorite holiday is Christmas. Math is his favorite subject in school. He has expressed interest in being an astronaut or a Harlem Globetrotter when he is older. Dakota appreciates different types of art and music, especially rap music. Action and adventure movies are Dakota's favorite movies to watch.

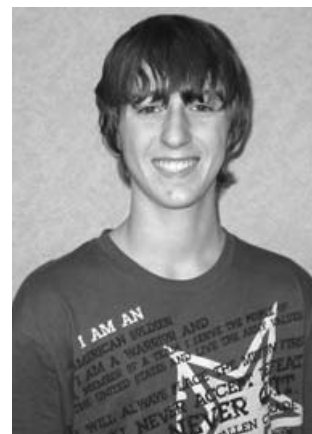
Dakota will be most successful in a two-parent home with no other children in the home. He needs a family who will challenge him intellectually and who will provide him with consistency, structure, and a sense of security. Dakota desires to be a part of a family who has family values and routines, such as eating together at the table. (8034DH) *Montgomery County*



### Ethan (16)

Ethan is intelligent and friendly and has an adventurous spirit. He has a passion for history and learning how to speak German. Ethan has discovered a talent for engineering and plans to attend college to become an engineer when he is older. He is doing well academically and gets along well with his peers. Ethan is polite and has a good sense of humor. He enjoys learning new things, and loves weekend camping trips and conferences. He recently learned how to use tools to make things out of wood and metal. Ethan does well with his chores around the house, as this is a way for him to earn his allowance and learn how to budget.

It would be beneficial for Ethan to be placed in a two-parent home. Ethan does well with or without other children in the home. The family would need to provide structure, stability, clear expectations, and support as needed to allow Ethan to adjust to the home. (8036DH) *Hendricks County*



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## **Kavon (10)**

Kavon is a quick learner and does well in school. He has a good imagination and enjoys playing with action figures. He likes to play board games, especially Monopoly. Kavon also likes card games like Uno and Go Fish. His favorite game system is the Nintendo DS and he enjoys playing the Smurfs, Sonic, Mario, Pokemon, and skateboard and bicycle games. R&B is Kavon's favorite music. Kavon enjoys sports activities such as football and basketball. His favorite team is the Colts. Kavon does well in school and gym is his favorite class. Kavon likes Pixar movies such as "Cars" and "Toy Story." His favorite foods are McDonald's and pizza.

Kavon will need a two-parent home with older children or no other children in the home. The family would need to be patient, committed, and supportive in maintaining contact with his siblings and maternal grandmother. Having consistency and structure in the home would also be beneficial for Kavon in adjusting to the home. (8037SS) *Marion County*



## **Daniel (11)**

Daniel loves to go fishing, ride his bike, and play outside! He has a lot of energy and loves all things outdoors. He likes to go camping with his foster family, climb trees, swim, and build forts. He is a very bright little boy and likes reading, playing video games, and learning about sharks. Daniel is very creative and has a talent for drawing. He has a big heart and is very friendly. Daniel loves animals and would enjoy having a dog.

Daniel would do well in a loving home that can provide encouragement, structure, and clear boundaries and expectations. Daniel will need to maintain contact with his brother. (8038MO) *Jefferson County*



## **Dakota (11)**

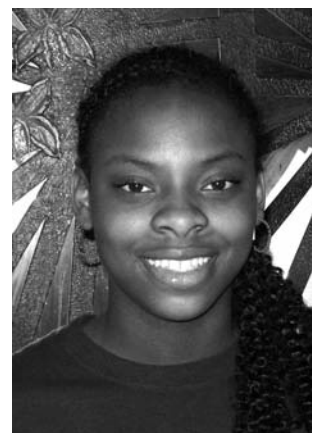
Dakota is a pro at origami! He does very well in his music and art classes. He plays guitar and keeps the crafts he makes in his own craft box. He enjoys showing his creations to anyone who is interested. Dakota is athletic, too, and enjoys playing football and basketball. He is fond of animals and would like to help take care of pets in his new home.

Dakota would do well in a two-parent home where he can receive attention, consistency, and encouragement with his studies. He would also benefit from having calm, patient parents who understand his need to adjust to a new setting. It is important that Dakota's new family is willing to adapt his home environment and services as his needs change. Dakota would like to remain in contact with his birth siblings. (8043DH) *Morgan County*

### **Mercedes (13)**

Mercedes loves to dress fashionably. She also loves to stay active. She takes any opportunity to interact with peers, whether it is with sports or in youth group. She loves to read and watch movies. She is soft-spoken and a bit shy, but she loves to smile and enjoys being around people her age.

Mercedes will need a home that can provide role models, stability, activity, acceptance, and extra support with her educational needs. She needs a family that will encourage her and teach her how to do unfamiliar things. She has siblings with whom she would like to remain in contact. Both single-parent and two-parent families will be considered. (8046KY) *St. Joseph County*



### **Destinie (15)**

Destinie is a freshman in high school and her favorite subject is math, although she really doesn't like school. She enjoys music, shopping, and likes to crochet. Her favorite food is tacos and she is a BIG milk drinker. She doesn't care if she has a single-parent or two-parent home but would like siblings, preferably one around her age. Her foster mother reports that she is very polite and pleasant, loves little kids and does well with them, and really likes animals.

Destinie would do well in a home where she can have a strong female role model. She also needs a family that will be patient and willing to work with her on her education. (8048KY) *LaGrange County*



### **Cassie (12)**

Cassie likes to stay busy! She spends her time playing baseball, doing science homework, and shopping for clothes and jewelry. Her favorite color is purple and she likes to eat at Golden Corral. When she grows up, she would like to be a singer. Until then, she would just like to go to movies, amusement parks, and a Justin Bieber concert.

Cassie needs a faithful family that will help her with accountability and guidance. She would do well in a two-parent or single-parent home where she can be the youngest child. Cassie would like to live in the city, but more importantly, she has stated that she wants a place to call "home." (8051KY) *Allen County*



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## **Kristian (9)** 🧑🏻

Kristian loves penguins, lions, BBQ, meatballs, cheesy potatoes, baseball, and the colors blue and green. He would like to be a police officer or work in an ambulance some day. He loves to play Xbox, ride mopeds, and play with toys. He especially likes Harley building kits. Baseball is his favorite sport. He also enjoys attending and singing along at church. He is silly, funny, active, and an especially good listener.

Kristian would do well in a family that can provide a highly structured environment, clear expectations, and encouragement regarding his education. Single-parent and two-parent homes will be considered. (8052MO) *Delaware County*



## **Rosie (14)**

Rosie is a creative and imaginative young woman who loves romantic comedies and Tyler Perry movies. Church is a very important part of Rosie's life. She loves her non-denominational, energetic church and she enjoys going to youth group. Rosie likes hamburgers and seafood. She would like to be a nurse or a beautician someday. She loves doing hair! She hopes to go to Disney World some day.

Rosie would do well in a family with other children. She would like to have siblings her age, but she wants to make sure that the siblings want her to be part of the family too. Rosie wants a family that is fair and kind. She will need a home that can provide medical and educational attention if she needs it. Single-parent and two-parent homes will be considered. (8053BD) *Madison County*



## **Perry (11)**

Perry has a great sense of humor and is a very compassionate individual. He is thoughtful and caring and loves to help those in need. He enjoys reading as well as playing with Legos, remote control cars, and video games. He is good at puzzles and he enjoys drawing. He likes soft-spoken people who share his compassion for people who have disabilities.

Perry would do well in a home where he is the only child. He needs a social family that can provide attention, stability, positive discipline, affection, guidance, and someone to be an advocate for his educational needs. (8055SS) *Vigo County*



Look for this symbol throughout our children's pages; it indicates that they have recorded a video message. You can view their video on-line at [www.adoptuskids.org/states/IN](http://www.adoptuskids.org/states/IN).

### **Abi (13)**

Abi is a bubbly, enthusiastic, adventurous young lady. She calls herself "a music fanatic!" She loves to listen to Michael Jackson and sing and dance along to rap and hip-hop artists. She also loves science classes, especially on days when the students get to do experiments. She would like to be a veterinarian some day. Her favorite animals are pugs, but she also really likes exotic animals. Cheese sticks and pickles are her favorite foods. Abi is very social and loves sports. Some day she would like to be on a dance team.

Abi would do well in an active and outgoing family. She needs a home where she can have support and attention and someone to attend her sporting events or school productions. She would prefer to live in a town where she could spend time with friends and neighbors, but she wouldn't mind living in a city or in the country. She needs a family that will provide guidance and clear boundaries. She also needs a family that will advocate for her education. She has family members with whom she would like to remain in contact. Single-parent and two-parent homes will be considered. (8056BS)  
*Knox County*



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## What is Adoption?

Adoption is meant to establish a legally recognized, lifelong relationship between a parent and child who are not parent/child related biologically. The adoptive parent(s) becomes legally and morally responsible for the child's safety, education, health care, value development, development of life skills, as well as the day-to-day care of that child.

Our society acknowledges that the man and woman who biologically create a life are traditionally the ones responsible for the child. Our society created adoption as a means to meet the needs of children whose biological parents are not able to assume the responsibilities of parenting.

Originally, adoption laws were based on "ownership"-type principles and focused on the rights of adults. However, over time, laws have become much more focused on meeting the emotional, physical, spiritual and developmental needs of the child.

In the past, the two people who biologically gave them life raised most children. This is no longer the case in our country. Today, single parents, grandparents, stepparents, foster parents or other parents acting as guardian are parenting a majority of children. Many children are now experiencing what it is like to have multiple sets of parents, grandparents and extended families. It is common for a child to experience a series of adults functioning in parental roles in their family.

Children who are adopted always have at least two sets of parents. For these children to be able to understand who they are, it is important for them to come to know, at some level, each of the parents who have had a part in creating the life they are living. All children try to make sense of these complex relationships. The more they know about the people to whom they have had any type of parental tie, the more successful they will be at developing a more complete picture of themselves.

According to Vera Fahlberg, a child and family expert and author, we can divide the parenting role in a child's life into three parts. Part One, ***the Biological Aspect of Parenting***, gives life itself to a child. The biological parent also determines the sex of the child, eye color, hair color and texture, intellectual potential, temperament, potential talents as well as some of the medical conditions that may surface as the child develops. Racial and ethnic heritage are also determined by the biological factors.

Part Two, ***the Legal Aspect of Parenting***, is financially responsible for the child. It is the legal parent's responsibility to keep the child

safe and secure. The legal parent makes all important decisions for the child, for instance, deciding where the child will live, what school the child will attend, what medical care is given, etc. This parent is also legally and financially responsible for the child's actions.

Part Three, ***the Parenting Aspect of Parenting***, sees to the day-to-day care of the child. This parent is responsible for providing love and discipline. This parent models behavior for the child to copy. This is the person who cooks meals, washes clothes, helps with school work, takes care of the ill child, watches the child's ball game etc. This person is the child's primary educator who teaches values, religion, and most life skills.

For any child, it would be much easier to understand life if the same one or two people filled all three of these parental roles throughout the child's entire life. For many children, and all adopted children, multiple people are involved. Most children are able to do quite well with multiple "parents" as long as transitions are handled appropriately and the child has someone to talk with about the changes. In fact, many very successful adults credit their success to having had many parent models and mentors along the way.

Circumstances and the legal system may change who provides two of these three parts of parenting to a particular child. However, circumstances and the legal system cannot change the biological connection. **The child's bonds to the biological parents are permanent and important to whom that child is as a person.** Anyone planning to adopt a child needs to recognize and value this fact.

Recognizing this is the only way that you will be able to understand the identity questions that the child will wrestle with as he or she grows and matures. The adoptive parent, who assumes both the role of legal parent and parenting parent for their adoptive child, can help them reach their highest potential by helping the child deal with such issues.

In a legal sense, people become a member of a family in one of three ways: by birth, by marriage or by adoption. "Family" is defined in our legal structure as two or more people who: 1)



have biological ties; or 2) make a long-term legally binding commitment to each other.

When entering a family by birth, the child shares genetics as well as cultural and ethnic heritage with others in the family.

When entering a family through adoption or marriage, family members blend themselves emotionally with another person or persons who usually differ in genetics and heritage. There generally is no biological tie. However, governments and societies

have developed ways to recognize the great importance and permanence of such deep, emotional commitments.

Laws, regulations and practices have been developed to give persons related by adoption and marriage comparable rights and responsibilities as those related by birth. Our society expects all families, whether formed by birth, adoption or marriage, to be permanent connections that offer love, acceptance and support for all members.

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## How Do I Start The Adoption Process in Indiana?

The Adoption Process for a child who is a ward of Indiana requires the supervision of the Department of Child Services. The process begins with Family Preparation and parents are required to attend educational workshops and complete a Family Preparation Assessment, sometimes called a Home Study. You can learn more about the process in another section of this book. Prospective Adoptive parents must be recommended to the Indiana Adoption Program after their Family Preparation is complete and approved.

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You will be given the contact information of those in your community responsible for helping you with Family Preparation and your contact information will be submitted to your local Training Coordinator and to your local county Department of Child Services. The Training Coordinator will send you a schedule and they may contact you about registering for the educational workshops. You can also choose to contact your community agencies.

If you have an approved Family Preparation Assessment or Home Study from the Indiana Department of Child Services and want more information on a child introduced in the Picture Book, contact the Indiana Adoption Program. You will be given the contact information for the child and your contact

information will be submitted to the child's social worker and Special Needs Adoption Specialist.

We encourage you to contact the Indiana Adoption Program first in order to ensure that you communicate to the proper individuals responsible for any child featured in this book

To begin to inquire about Family Preparation contact the Indiana Adoption Program:

Call 1-888-25-ADOPT or e-mail at  
snap@childrensbureau.org

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## How to Adopt Overview

The information below provides an overview of the steps involved in adopting a child from the foster care system. This information has been reprinted in part from the National Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC) and can be read in more detail on their website at [www.nacac.org](http://www.nacac.org) or at [www.adoptachild.in.gov](http://www.adoptachild.in.gov).

### Step 1: Educate Yourself about Adoption

#### Where Do I Start Learning?

Ask adoptive parents where they started their adoption journey and you will get many answers. For some their process began with reading a newspaper or magazine article. Maybe they found adoption material on the Internet. They may have checked out a book on adoption from their local library. Others may have known someone who had already adopted and talked with them about expectations and what steps to take. Others may have looked in the phone book for adoption agencies in their area, then called and received basic information, either on the phone or in the mail.

The more information you have, the better choices you can make for yourself and your children-to-be. Individuals must choose for themselves when and how to gather the information they need.

#### National Adoption Organizations

**The National Adoption Information Clearinghouse (NAIC)** publishes a wide variety of adoption fact sheets, many of which are free or very inexpensive. It also provides information about state and federal adoption laws, and tracks upcoming adoption conferences. NAIC's web site includes a searchable collection of adoption-related articles and report abstracts, as well as a directory of more than 5,700 public and private adoption agencies, support groups, and government officials. To learn more, contact:

##### NAIC

330 C St. S.W.  
Washington, DC 20447  
888-251-0075 or 703-352-3488  
fax: 703-385-3206  
e-mail: [NAIC@calib.com](mailto:NAIC@calib.com)  
web: [www.calib.com/naic](http://www.calib.com/naic)

#### North American Council on Adoptable Children

This national organization offers information and resources to support adoption of children from the foster care system. They host a national conference each year for adoptive families and families waiting to adopt.

970 Raymond Avenue, Suite 106  
St. Paul, MN 55114  
phone: 651-644-3036  
fax: 651-644-9848  
e-mail: [info@nacac.org](mailto:info@nacac.org)

#### Adoption Conferences

Many national, regional, and local groups hold annual adoption conferences with workshops geared toward new or prospective adoptive parents.

- Some publishers and booksellers produce or market many child welfare and adoption-related materials. Some of the best known include:

##### Child Welfare League of America

440 First St. N.W., 3rd Floor  
Washington, DC 20001-2085  
202-638-2952 • fax: 202-638-4004  
web: [www.cwla.org/pubs](http://www.cwla.org/pubs)  
Headquarters  
2395 Crystal Dr., Suite 250  
Arlington, VA 22202  
Phone: 703-412-2400 • fax: 703-412-2401

##### Perspectives Press

P.O. Box 90318  
Indianapolis, IN 46290-0318  
317-872-3055 (phone & fax)  
web: [www.perspectivespress.com](http://www.perspectivespress.com)

##### Tapestry Books

P.O. Box 651  
Ringoes, NJ 08551  
877-266-5406 • fax: 609-737-5951  
e-mail: [info@tapestrybooks.com](mailto:info@tapestrybooks.com)  
web: [www.tapestrybooks.com](http://www.tapestrybooks.com)

- Your phone book. Adoption agencies, advocates, attorneys, support groups, and more can be found listed in the Yellow Pages under "Adoption."
- Use your public library. Most libraries now have online access so you can use the Internet, find listings of periodicals, and do inter-library transfers. A wealth of free information can be located through these means.
- Your home computer can be a gateway to adoption information. The Internet has no shortage of information about adoption.

## Self Assessment

Children don't need perfect parents, just one or two individuals willing to meet the unique challenges of parenting and make a lifetime commitment to caring for and nurturing their children. One of the advantages of special needs adoption is that almost any responsible adult can become an adoptive parent. Prospective parents do not have to be rich, married, under 40, highly educated, or homeowners to adopt. Far more important are personal characteristics like:

- a belief in adoption and an ability to commit
- patience and perseverance
- a good sense of humor and talent for keeping life in perspective
- a love of children and parenting
- the ability to roll with unexpected changes, stresses, and challenges
- the ability to deal with rejection without taking it personally
- the ability to accept without judging
- tolerance and understanding for your child's conflicting feelings and your own
- an awareness that healing doesn't come quickly, all wounds cannot be healed, and your child may not attach to your family
- the strength to be consistent and set limits
- a willingness to learn new parenting techniques and advocate for your children's educational and medical needs
- resourcefulness

If you have all or most of those qualities, then ask yourself these questions:

- Do I clearly understand why I want to adopt?
- If applicable — do my partner and I work as a team? Are we both committed to adoption?
- If applicable — have I talked with my own children and considered their feelings?
- Does my lifestyle allow me the time necessary to meet the needs of a special child?

Think carefully about your answers to these questions. You may decide to pursue a different type of adoption, consider foster care, or realize that adoption really is not for you. Take the time to make a good decision, because it is a decision you and your adoptive child will live with for life.

In addition, before seriously contemplating special needs adoption, prospective parents must honestly evaluate their desire and ability to successfully parent children who have troubling pasts and uncertain futures. Many children who become available for adoption at older ages have not received the early care that kids need to develop a strong sense of security, trust, and self-esteem. Many also suffer from conditions caused by past trauma, or prenatal exposure to alcohol or drugs. Children whose backgrounds include traumatic experiences, abuse, and/or neglect may exhibit symptoms of distress such as:

- aggressiveness
- attachment disorders
- attention deficits and hyperactivity
- bed wetting
- defiance
- depression
- impulsiveness
- learning disabilities
- low self-esteem
- lying
- poor peer relationships/social skills

Fortunately, through therapy, medication, and consistent care, children can overcome or at least better cope with many of these challenges.

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Most children put their new adoptive parents through a period of testing to see if the parents are truly committed or just waiting for an excuse to desert the child as others have done before. To improve your chances of successfully adopting a child who has special needs, be prepared to offer a home environment that combines extra love, support, and attention with clear structure and consistent limit-setting. Parents should also be ready to actively advocate for their child at school, with peers, and within the community. It can be immensely helpful for parents to have a support network or belong to an adoptive parent support group.

## Step 2: Decide What Type of Adoption You Want to Pursue

Even if you already know that you want to adopt a child who has special needs, you still need to make a number of choices about your adoption. Most importantly, you need to decide what type of child you are willing to bring into your family. What disabilities and challenges (physical, mental, emotional, or behavioral) can you comfortably handle? What age range, background, and ethnicity would fit best within your household and community? Are you open to helping your adopted child maintain contact with some of his or her birth relatives? Can you welcome a group of two or more siblings into your home?

Next, you might want to consider whether you would rather work through a public or a private adoption agency. Though most children who have special needs become available for adoption through the public foster care system, both public and private agencies can help you locate a child or sibling group to adopt.

## Step 3: Investigate Ways to Cover Adoption Expenses

Many agencies do not charge service fees to families who adopt children from the foster care system. However, you will need a home study, and because adoption is a legal process, you may need an attorney. The cost of a home study can vary from \$0 to \$3,000. Attorney fees and court costs can range from \$2,000 to \$5,000, and special needs adoptive families often incur additional costs for medical services, counseling, etc. — costs that may continue throughout the child's lifetime. Fortunately, due to federal and employer-initiated programs, parents have several options for covering the cost of special needs adoption.

### Employer Assistance

Employers who offer adoption benefits may provide workers with:

- direct cash assistance for adoption expenses
- reimbursement of approved adoption expenses
- paid or unpaid leave (beyond federal leave requirements established through the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993)
- resource and referral services

To request a list of employers who provide adoption benefits or learn more about employer provided adoption benefits, contact: Adoption Benefits Coordinator, National Adoption Center, 1500 Walnut Street, Suite 701, Philadelphia, PA 19102; 800-TO-ADOPT or 215-735-9988.

### Tax Credits and Exclusions

For tax years beginning 2008–2009 the adoption or credit has increased. See form 8839, "Qualified Adoption Expenses" and its instructions for more information. Check the Internal Revenue Services website at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) and look under Forms & Publications.

### Adoption Subsidies

If you adopt a child who has special needs, he or she may be eligible for federal adoption assistance. Adoption assistance payments are designed to help offset the short- and long-term costs associated with adopting children who need special services. Children who are wards may be eligible for adoption assistance benefits if they meet specific eligibility guidelines. Ask your child's Family Case Manager about the child eligibility for subsidies.

### Indiana Adoption Subsidy

The new adoption subsidy guidelines can be found on the Department of Child Services website. Go to [www.in.gov/dcs](http://www.in.gov/dcs) — when you look at the page, on the left-hand side are tabs. Go to the pull-down arrow of Policies and click on Child Welfare policies. When you get to that page you will see a list of Policy Changes via Administrative Letters. About 3/4 of the way down, you will find an Administrative Letter from Director Payne, titled "Indiana Adoption Program" and it has a January 2009 date. The letter is 15 pages long and outlines the entire subsidy program.

## Step 4: Select an Adoption Agency

### How to Find Agencies

To find as many agencies to choose from as possible, consider several of the options listed below:

- The Indiana Adoption Program is coordinated through the County Department of Child Services (CDCS) and private Licensed Child Placing Agencies (LCPA) that are contracted with the local counties to provide adoption services, including Family Preparation. You can contact the Indiana Adoption Program at 1-888-25-ADOPT or view a list of SNAP Specialists at <http://www.in.gov/dcs/2747.htm> for agency information in your area.
- Look in the Yellow Pages under “Adoption” or “Social Services” for private adoption agencies. If you live in a small town, you may want to check in a phone book from a larger community nearby.
- Contact adoptive parent support groups or adoptive parents for suggestions. Both are a great source of information about agencies and adoption, plus they are usually eager to share what they know with prospective adopters. To find an adoptive parent support group in your area contact your local county DCS to see if they know of one or use the Internet to search. Support groups are generally very informal and you may need to ask people in your community who have adopted to find out if a group meets near you.

### Finding the Right Agency for You

To find a public or private agency that is a good fit for you, your beliefs and values, and your unique situation, compare information from several different agencies. Most will gladly provide details about their services and requirements upon request. Before selecting an agency, take the initiative to interview agency representatives by phone or in person to learn more about them. You may want to ask:

- Who can adopt from the agency?
- What kinds of children does the agency place (ages, backgrounds, etc.)?
- Does the agency work with the foster care system or is it exclusively a private adoption agency?
- Where do the agency’s children come from, and how many are legally free for adoption?
- How long, on average, must one wait for a child? What is the time lapse between application and placement?

- How much does a completed adoption cost—in total and part by part?
- What are the assessment or home study requirements?
- What services — such as parenting classes, support group activities, access to therapy and counseling, and respite care — will the agency provide before and after a child is placed in your home?
- Can the agency provide references from parents who recently adopted from the agency?

## Step 5: Let Your Agency Know You Are Serious about Adopting

When you call an agency to let staff there know you are interested in adopting, the person you talk to may ask a series of screening questions or simply volunteer to send literature about the agency. If you want to adopt relatively soon, find out how you can get the process started.

One common first step is an orientation meeting or training session for prospective adoptive parents. At the meeting or training you will likely:

- meet social workers and learn about policies and practices regarding adoption
- learn what types of children are available for adoption through the agency
- learn about foster care
- be asked to examine your feelings about adoption, and judge if adoption is the right choice for you
- gain insight into the challenges and rewards of adoptive parenting
- obtain application materials

## Step 6: Adoption Application

The application process may be different between private agencies and those agencies (LCPA) that contract with the DCS for the Indiana Adoption Program. If you are adopting a child who is in foster care, you may need to attend several of the educational workshops before you begin the application or Family Preparation process.

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If you find that the application process is hard to understand, ask the agency or another adoptive parent for help. Don't let the challenges of completing forms keep you from pursuing adoption.

Find out how long it will take for the agency to process your application once you have completed the forms. Ask when you should next expect to hear from the agency, and how you can schedule and prepare for an assessment or home study.

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## Step 7: Attend Adoption and Parenting Classes

Public agencies commonly require pre-placement training to acquaint prospective parents with issues that can arise after a child or sibling group is placed with them. School-aged adoptees bring not only unique special needs, but also a history of life experiences that will affect interactions with adoptive parents, new siblings, schoolmates, and others. Issues related to disability, culture, early abuse, and a child's birth family should all be discussed before a child is placed in your home.

Prospective adoptive parents who want to be approved to adopt children through the Indiana Adoption Program must complete 26 hours of adoption preparation training in scheduled workshops. Pre-Adoption Training is scheduled through your local Training Coordinator. To find out who the Training Coordinator is in your area contact the Indiana Adoption Program.

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## Step 8: Begin the Family Preparation Process

The Family Preparation process can loosely be defined as an educational process designed to help your social worker learn more about your ability to parent and provide a stable home, to teach you about adoption and its effect on children and families, and to prepare you to parent a child whose experiences and history are very different from your own. Everyone who hopes to adopt must have a completed Family Preparation Assessment, also called a home study. Depending on the agency, the worker, and the prospective parents' cooperation, the process can take anywhere from two months to a year.

### Items You May Need for a Family Preparation Assessment (Home Study)

Specific requirements for assessments or home studies vary by agency, so be sure to ask for a list of the items and information your agency needs. The following items are commonly required during the assessment process:

- an autobiographical statement — a statement you create about your life history
- certified copies of birth certificates for you, your partner, and any children
- a certified copy of your marriage license
- certified copies of divorce decrees
- the death certificate of a former spouse
- certified copies of the finalization or adoption decrees for any adopted children
- child abuse and criminal record clearances, or a notarized statement from the police declaring that you and your partner have faced no felony convictions
- income verification (may include tax returns, W-2 forms, and paycheck stubs)
- a statement of health provided by a physician, which might include lab test results or a statement of infertility
- written references from friends, employers, neighbors, etc.

At some point in the process, you may also need to pay for the home study. The cost through a public agency may be quite low or even free; other agencies typically charge between \$500 and \$2,000 for a completed study.

### Questions You May Be Asked

During Family Preparation meetings with your worker, you can expect to answer questions about your background, your education, your job history, your marriage, your leisure activities, your religion (particularly for religiously affiliated agencies), and your experiences with children. For instance, the worker may ask:

- What is your family like? How will you integrate your new child into your family?
- How will your extended family treat an adopted child?
- How is your marriage? How do you make decisions, resolve conflicts, and express your feelings?



- Why do you want to adopt?
- What is your home like? Are there places for your child to play or spend time alone?
- What is your neighborhood like?
- How do you plan to address discipline issues with your new child?
- What was your family like when you were growing up? How were you raised? Are you close to your parents?
- Where do you work? Is your schedule flexible enough to accommodate the responsibilities that come with parenting?
- What sort of child care arrangements will you make for your child?

The aim of any assessment or home study is to help the agency locate the best home for each child it places, and make good matches between prospective parents and children. If you have questions about the process, ask your social worker or agency.

## Step 9: Begin Searching for a Child

If you adopt through the Indiana Adoption Program, you are urged to complete training and your Family Preparation process before you begin searching for a child. It may take several months for you to complete the process and become approved to adopt, so a child that you see listed in the Picture Book now may not be available several months from now.

The children are listed in the Picture Book by their first name, followed by an identification number. The last two letters of the identification number are the initials for the SNAP specialist for the child. The SNAPs and their contact information can be found on the back inside cover of the Picture Book.

If you adopt through a private agency, learn how the agency will conduct a search. What criteria do they use to match children with families? Are they willing to search outside your immediate area for a child? If you learn of a child in another state, will the agency pursue the child for you?

## Step 10: Considering a Child

Before agreeing to accept any child or sibling group for adoption, learn as much as you can about the child — including prenatal care and exposure to drugs or alcohol, birth parents' medical

histories, attachments to foster families or other relatives, foster care placements, relationships with siblings, interests and talents, etc. Most agencies want adoptive parents to get to know children before agreeing to adopt. If the child has certain medical conditions or other disabilities, decide if your family is prepared to address issues that may arise from the child's situation.

If you agree to adopt and accept placement of a child whose birth parents' rights have not been voluntarily surrendered or involuntarily terminated (known as a legal-risk placement), you must accept the chance that the child could be returned to his or her birth parents. Until birth parents' rights are terminated, the child cannot legally become a member of your family and must instead stay in your home as a foster child.

### Questions for Prospective Adoptive Parents to Ask

- a. What is known about the child's birth history?
- b. What is known about the child's developmental history — physically, mentally, emotionally and socially?
- c. Is there any evidence of handicap? Any suspected learning difficulties?
- d. When was last contact with any birth family member?
- e. Are there pictures the birth family can pass on, or any family memento?
- f. Is there a Life Book for the child?
- g. Are there any siblings? Will it be possible or beneficial for ongoing contact with siblings (if they have been separated)?
- h. What social and medical history is available on the parents? On extended family members or siblings?
- i. Do the parents have a history of drug or alcohol abuse? Was the mother using substances during the pregnancy?
- j. What was the home environment like? What was the environment of the foster home(s) like?
- k. How many moves or placements did the child experience and why did they occur?
- l. What is the child's current adjustment status?
- m. Has the child been prepared for the adoptive placement? How can you help?
- n. What is the child's current health status? Does the child have any allergies?

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- o. Is there any history of physical, sexual or emotional abuse? What treatment has been pursued?
- p. What method of discipline works best with the child?
- q. Does the child accept and give affection?
- r. Does the child have any therapeutic needs or treatment plans?
- s. What adoption subsidy options are there for the child?

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## Step 11: Prepare for Your Child's Arrival

Anticipate how the addition of a new family member will affect your life and plan accordingly. Depending on your situation and the child you adopt, you may need to:

- Update the family's insurance. Adoptees can be covered under your health insurance from the date they are placed with your family. Group health insurance carriers must insure adoptees under the terms of their parents' policy and cannot deny coverage due to pre-existing conditions. Add a child to your health insurance plan within 30 days after he or she is placed in your home. If your child is eligible for an adoption subsidy, he or she may be covered through Medicaid. Also change beneficiary designations on life insurance policies and update wills as needed.
- Get and keep a copy of the adoption decree with the child's amended birth certificate. Once the adoption is finalized, that document may be sealed and neither you nor the adoptee can access it. Without it, some adoptees have had trouble getting passports and other official documents. With it, adoptees may have an easier time searching for their biological roots, if and when they decide to do so.
- Prepare to get a new social security card and birth certificate for your child that recognizes the child's new last name and family situation. To claim your child as a dependent for tax purposes, the child must have a social security number.
- Learn as much as you can about the child's habits and personality. Talk to the child's foster parents and worker so you can learn information that will help ease the child's transition into your family. What are the child's favorite foods and games? What is the best way to comfort the child?

- Keep items that tie to the child's past. Encourage the child to bring all his possessions from previous homes, and ask the foster parents and workers for copies of any pictures they have of the child. Never throw away broken toys or worn out clothes unless the child wants to. Familiar objects and smells are comforting, and the child needs you to respect that he has a past and prior attachments and loyalties.
- Make your house child-friendly. Reposition or remove household objects that could be dangerous to your new child. Prepare the child's room to make it welcoming and to signal that the area belongs to him or her.
- Inform your other children about changes that will occur. Tell your children how their roles may change when the new child arrives. Prepare them to share, adjust schedules, and withhold judgment during the transition. Include everyone in visits and trial weekends before the child is placed, and establish clear ground rules for behavior, interaction, and discipline.
- Negotiate an adoption assistance agreement. Parents who adopt an eligible child with special needs from a public or private agency can receive federal or state benefits for their child. Ask your agency what steps you must take to obtain a subsidy and negotiate an adoption assistance agreement, including any post-adoptive services and subsidies.

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## Step 12: The Child is Placed in Your Home

If you adopt a younger child, you may need to find day care. If you adopt an older child, you may need to enroll him or her in school; arrange for therapy, counseling, or tutoring; and identify respite care options. You might also want to join an adoptive parent support group.

Children who are placed for adoption through public agencies may move in with an adoptive family as soon as the parents complete required pre-placement visits and are approved to adopt-provided the timing is not unnecessarily disruptive to the child's schooling or other activities.

When a new child is placed in your home, you will assume temporary legal custody. For a few months, while your family undergoes the inevitable adjustment period, your agency will monitor how the placement is proceeding.

The monitoring period typically lasts about six months to a year. During this time, the worker may call or visit to assess how you and your new child are adjusting, and to answer questions. If all goes well, at the end of the monitoring period the agency will recommend to the court that the adoption be approved.

## Step 13: File a Petition to Adopt

An adoption petition is the document filed in court that initiates the legal aspect of adoption. Through the petition, adoptive parents formally request permission to adopt a specific child. To file a petition you will likely need the following information and documentation:

- the child's birth certificate or birth date and place of birth
- a written statement that confirms your desire and suitability to adopt, as well as your ability to provide financially for the child
- a written declaration that the adoption is in the child's best interest
- your name, age, and address
- the date on which and from whom you received custody of the child
- a statement of the legal reason why the birth parents' rights are being (or have been) terminated
- a disclosure of any relationship that you share with the child (other than as an adoptive parent) — such as being the child's aunt, grandparent, or stepparent

## Step 14: Finalize the Adoption

Your adoption is not legally complete until your newly created family goes through the finalization process. Finalization hearings usually take place within a year after a child is placed in the home. Before scheduling a hearing, check with your agency to make sure you have completed the necessary paperwork. If you are missing required documents, the finalization could be delayed.

The finalization hearing is a judicial proceeding, sometimes held in the judge's chambers, during which adoptive parents are granted permanent legal custody of their adopted child. The hearing, which usually lasts only 30 to 60 minutes, is designed to establish the legality of the new family unit, and confirm that

the adoptive parents are willing and able to provide for their new child.

### Who Should Attend the Hearing

The following individuals generally attend the finalization hearing:

- the adoptive parents and adoptee(s)
- the adoptive family's lawyer
- the agency social worker who placed the child with the adoptive parents

### What the Hearing Involves

To verify that the adoption should take place, the court will attempt to establish that the child has been placed in a safe, loving home. Expect to list all the identifying information included in your adoption petition and answer questions such as:

- Why do you want to adopt?
- How will you care for your new child?
- How will your family adjust to a new child?
- Is there anything the court should know before finalizing this adoption?

As soon as the judge signs the adoption order, you gain permanent legal custody of your child. Finalization is the last formal step in the adoption process and marks the official beginning of your new family. From this point, learn as much as you can about post-adoption services (like respite care, support groups, etc.) that can help you make the most of your new role as an adoptive parent.

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## Common Challenges of Children With Special Needs

Children in the Indiana Adoption Program are often considered to have “special needs.” Special Needs can mean different things to people. The Adoption Program has been referred to as a Special Needs Adoption Program (SNAP) and the regional representative coordinating the adoption process for a child is called a SNAP Specialist.

Special Needs are the unique challenges each child faces and will require parents to assist them in their childhood development and schooling in a knowledgeable way. Special Needs can describe physical disabilities, medical conditions, emotional difficulties and developmental issues.

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### Abuse

Many of the children, regardless of their age, in the Indiana Adoption Program have experienced abuse. This can mean physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse or any combination of these types of trauma. Abuse generally leaves its mark with behavioral problems, physical impairments and therapeutic needs that require the attention of parents and professionals working together to benefit the child’s future development.

### Attachment

This term describes a child’s ability to form relationships. Children who have been abused, neglected, or have experienced disruptions in significant relationships may face challenges in creating new relationships.

### Attachment Disorder

An attachment disorder is a condition in which children have difficulty forming loving, lasting close relationships. Attachment disorders vary in severity, but the term is usually reserved for those who show a nearly complete lack of ability to be genuinely affectionate with others. They may seem distant, insincere or uncaring and have difficulty trusting others.

### Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD/ADHD)

ADD/ADHD is a diagnosable, treatable, biologically based disorder. The primary symptoms include some combination of being inattentive and being distracted, being impulsive, and in some children, physical restlessness or hyperactive behavior.

### Developmental Disabilities (DD)

This term describes many conditions that may be mild or severe and generally includes any physical, mental or emotional condition, which will continue to inhibit the normal developmental progress of a child. Many children have educational requirements that must be met through the Special Education process of their school.

### Drug-Exposed

A child born to a mother who used drugs such as cocaine or certain pharmaceuticals while she was pregnant may have damage to their nervous system. A newborn will appear stiff and rigid and have prolonged crying episodes and be at an increased risk for Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). Some children will develop behavior and learning difficulties.

A child’s challenges can range from mild to severe, and be temporary or permanent. The environment provided in a child’s future development, that may include you as their parent, will to a great degree affect the measure of their challenges.

## **Emotional Disability (ED)**

Abuse, trauma and sometimes genetics can result in various degrees of multiple emotional challenges. This term is also used as eligibility criteria for services at school through Special Education under state and federal law.

## **Fetal Alcohol Syndrome/Fetal Alcohol Effects (FAS/FAE)**

### **Alcohol-Related Neurodevelopmental Disorder (ARND)**

FAS/FAE is a set of physical, mental and neurobehavioral birth defects associated with alcohol consumption by a child's birth mother during pregnancy. Prenatal alcohol exposure does not always result in FAS—although there is no known safe level of alcohol consumption during pregnancy. Some children affected by alcohol exposure before birth do not have the characteristic facial abnormalities and growth retardation identified with FAS, yet they have brain and other impairments that are just as significant. Alcohol-Related Neurodevelopmental Disorder (ARND) describes the functional or mental impairments linked to prenatal alcohol exposure.

## **Learning Disability**

Children with learning disabilities may be of average or above average intelligence but have difficulties remembering or understanding information. This term is also used as eligibility criteria for services at school through Special Education under state and federal law.

## **Mental Disability**

Mental disabilities is a term that is used to describe a wide variety of different challenges and can affect children in ways that are unique to each child, especially in regards to levels of severity. This is also a term used as eligibility criteria for Special Education services.

## **Neglect**

Neglect is the absence of essential and healthy nurturing of a child for their physical, intellectual, and emotional development. Neglect includes physical neglect, child abandonment and expulsion, medical neglect, inadequate supervision, emotional neglect and educational neglect by parents, parent substitutes, and other adult caretakers of children. Children who have experienced neglect may be--problems.

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## The Legal Aspects of Adoption

Prospective adoptive parents should consult an attorney for legal advice and as they prepare to adopt a child.

### Selecting an Attorney

Federal and state laws that apply to foster care and adoption require certain steps to be followed prior to the finalization of an adoption. It is important to have an attorney to represent you in the adoption process. Your family, friends or individuals you know who have adopted may be able to recommend an attorney for legal advice and you can find out more information on attorneys from your local county Bar Association. Sometimes it is helpful for an attorney to have knowledge of the foster care system.

For a referral to an attorney trained by ACT in adoptions from foster care, or for a free consultation with an ACT-trained attorney, please view the following website for contact information at: [www.adoptioninchildtime.org](http://www.adoptioninchildtime.org)

### Attorney Fees

Attorney fees vary around the state. You will need to ask the attorney what fees they charge and how they bill their services. Since some children are eligible for an adoption subsidy (a one-time reimbursement of legal fees or non-recurring adoption expenses with a maximum expenditure of \$1500 per child) your attorney may be able to assist you in applying the subsidy to their fees.

### Approval

Prospective adoptive parents need an approved Family Preparation Assessment (Home Study) to be recommended for a child who is a ward. Your local county Department of Child Services (DCS) and/or the private agency (LCPA) that contracts with the county must determine if you have been approved. You are required to have written approval before a child can be placed with you for adoption and through your local court jurisdiction.

### Agency Supervision

Indiana law requires that adoptions be granted only after a period of supervision has been met. The child and adoptive family relationship must be supervised by a local county Department of Child Services or private child placing agency (LCPA) that contracts with them. The length of the supervision period is at the discretion of the court, however most courts require a standard time period of six months.

### Required Consents

The consent of the child's mother, if she is living, is required by law to complete an adoption. The consent of a child's father who has established paternity or signed a paternity affidavit is also required. The county Department of Child Services (DCS) may have completed a court action to terminate the parent-child relationship so that a child who is a ward can be legally free for adoption, whether the child's parents have consented or not determines the type of court action that is necessary. You will need the consent of the CDCS that has the responsibility of care and supervision of the child you wish to adopt for the court proceedings, unless the court finds that their consent is not necessary to serve the best interests of the child.

### Adoption Petition Filing

In Indiana, an attorney needs to file the adoption petition and represent the family through the court process. A petition may be filed in the county where the pre-adoptive parent resides, or in the county where the child resides, or where the Department of Child Services (DCS) or private agency (LCPA) has custody of the child. If you are not an Indiana resident, you may petition to adopt a child who is a ward of Indiana in the county where the LCPA or DCS has custody or the county where the child resides.

If you are married, both you and your spouse must sign the adoption petition. Partners of an unmarried couple may not petition to adopt together and in such cases, only one partner may be the petitioner.

### Adoption Filing Fees

The adoption filing fee consists of the following: The adoption history fee, which is \$20 and the putative father registry fee, which is \$50. Both of these fees are sent to the State Department of Health for records maintenance; and the county clerk's office fee, which can range from \$100 to \$200. The court may not require payment of the clerk's fee if you are unable to pay it based on an affidavit regarding your income and expenses.

### Adoption Assistance

If a child has been determined eligible for adoption assistance, the adoption assistance agreement **MUST** be signed by all parties before the final adoption is entered.

# Adoption Chart

There are four basic types of adoption: public agency adoption, domestic private agency adoption, international adoption, and independent adoption. As the chart below shows, requirements, costs, and timing vary between and within the different types of adoption. To decide which type of adoption is best for you, think seriously about the type of child you would like to adopt (for example, an infant, an older child or group of siblings, a child from another country, a child who has special needs, etc.).

Type of Adoption	Definition	Children Available	Approximate Cost	Who Can Adopt	How Long It Takes
<b>Public agency adoption</b>	an adoption directed and supervised by a state or local Department of Human Services (or Social Services, or Human Resources, or Health and Welfare, or Child and Family Services, etc.)	children with special needs (kids who are harder to place due to emotional or physical disorders, age, race, membership in a sibling group, backgrounds); rarely infants	from \$0 to \$1,500 (depending on the state, up to \$1,500 of "nonrecurring" adoption costs for eligible special needs children may be reimbursed)	flexible eligibility requirements for adoptive parents; on a case-by-case basis, will consider single parents, parents over the age of 40, parents who have other children, parents with low incomes, etc.	starts slowly, but for those who have an updated home study, placement can occur as soon as a few months after selecting a child
<b>Private agency adoption</b>	an adoption directed and supervised by a privately funded, licensed adoption agency	sometimes handle special needs children; more commonly associated with younger children and infants	\$6,000 to \$25,000; lower for special needs children; some agencies have sliding fee scales	agencies may recruit parents based on race, religious affiliation, etc.; for infant adoptions, birth mother often chooses	a few months to a few years (sometimes longer for infant adoption)
<b>International adoption</b>	process of adopting a child who is not a U.S citizen, which may be accomplished privately through an attorney, or through an international adoption agency	about 88 countries currently allow their children to be adopted by U.S. citizens—6 countries in Africa, 20 in Asia, 32 in Europe, and 30 in Latin America; ages range from infant to teens; health conditions vary; generally infants	\$7,000 to \$30,000 (varies by country; travel and travel-related expenses may be additional)	depends on agency and country requirements; some will accept single parents, most prospective parents are between 25 and 45 years old	six months to several years depending on the child's age and health, and the country's political climate
<b>Independent adoption (not legal in all states; also known as private adoption)</b>	an adoption initiated by prospective adopters and completed with help from an attorney or adoption counselor		\$5,000 to \$40,000 (includes prospective parents' cost of finding a birth mother, certain birth mother expenses, and attorney's fees)	birth mothers typically choose the adoptive parent — preferences tend to run toward younger, affluent, married couples	variable; as long as it takes to find a birth mother who will see the process through to finalization

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## Youth Connections Program

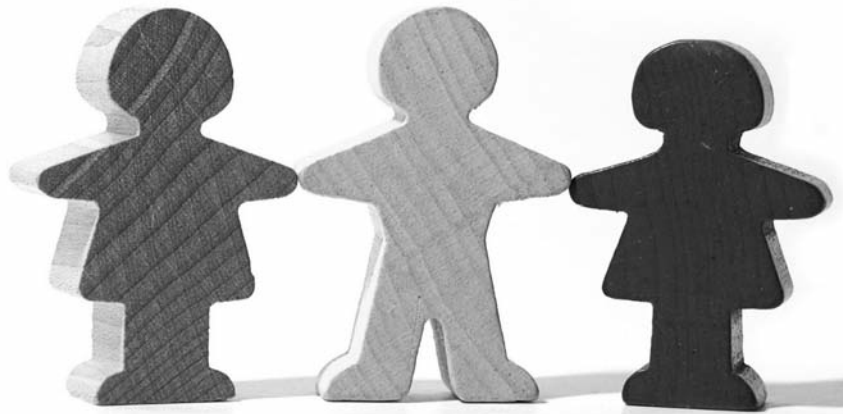
The Department of Child Services (DCS) works with teens who are ages 14 through 18 for whom an adoptive family has not been identified or who have expressed that they do not want to be adopted; but the youth need a caring adult in their life to help them make the transition to adulthood.

The Youth Connections Program has been implemented to assist teens who will be on their own when they leave foster care. Every young person aging out of foster care should have at least one caring adult in their life whom they can count on to be there for them when they need support, guidance, advice and resources.

What can you do? Consider that a teen on their own will need someone to talk to; for advice or a sympathetic ear or to celebrate a birthday, they may need help finding a job, finishing school, or locating a safe place to live, a place to do laundry or use the telephone, a ride to work, an occasional meal, some emergency cash, they may need a coat or someone to advocate for them.

Youth Connections Program Specialists will provide support to the adults and teens to help build and sustain a relationship that will nurture a long-term connection. They will assist in identifying Independent Living services and community resources for the teen.

To find out how you can help and to receive further information on the program, please contact one of the people listed below, nearest to your own location.



Beth Prebeck  
Southern Youth Connections Specialist  
DCS Brown County Office  
121 Locust Lane, P.O. Box 325  
Nashville, IN 47448-0325  
812-988-2239 (Work)  
317-439-6599 (Cell)  
812-988-1279 (fax)  
Beth.Prebeck@dcs.in.gov

Barbara A. Gainer  
Northern Indiana YCP Specialist  
Youth Connections Program  
217 East Southway Blvd, Suite 202  
Kokomo, IN 46901  
765-865-2212  
765-864-3000 fax  
Barbara.Gainer@dcs.in.gov

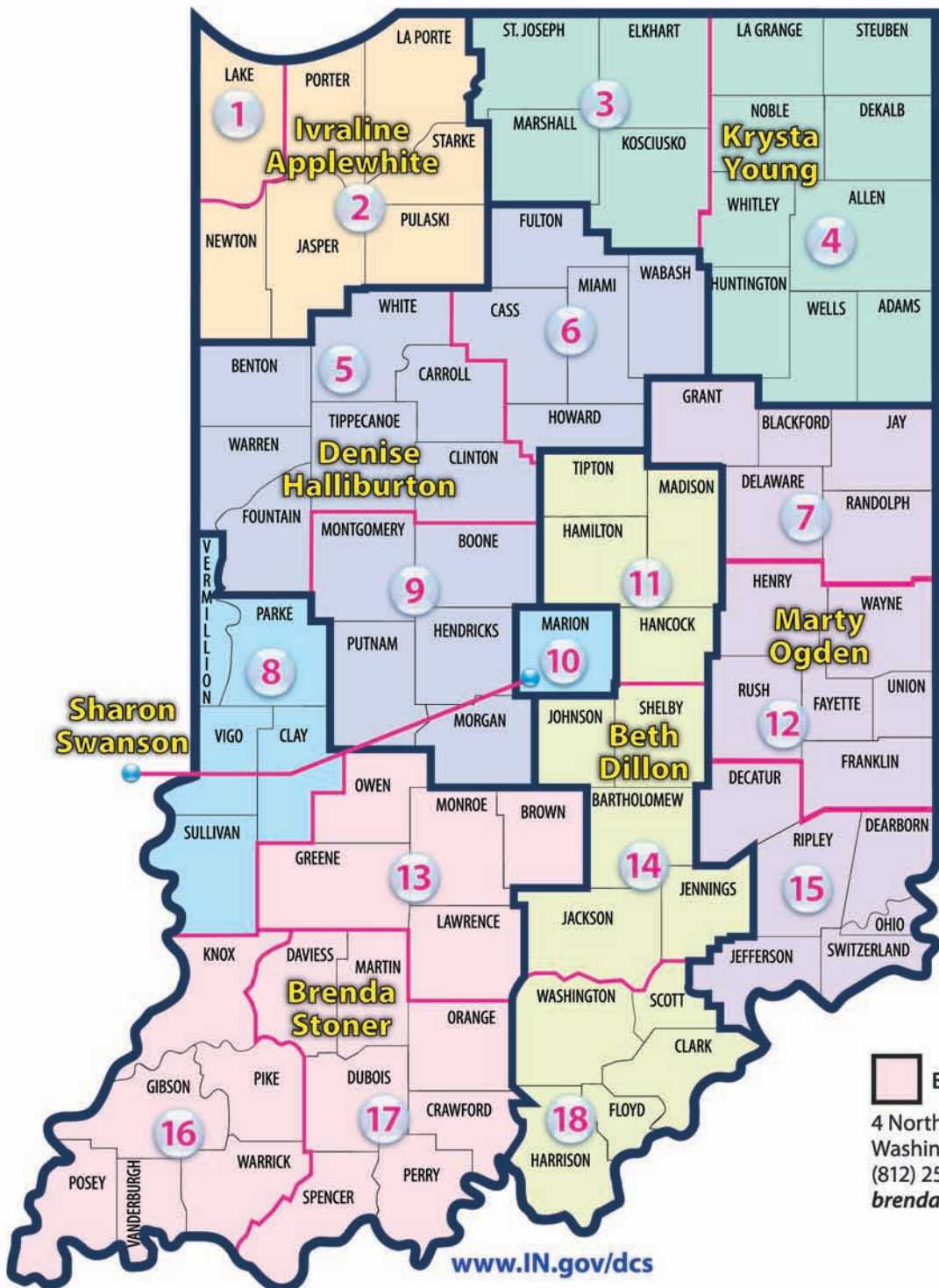
# Area Specialist Locator Map

**Thank you for your interest in Indiana's Adoption Program.**

This map shows the Special Needs Adoption Program (SNAP) specialist who coordinates adoption information for their Team.

**For more information, please call the toll-free number—**

**1-888-25-ADOPT**



- Sharon Swanson**  
4150 N. Keystone Avenue  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46205-2843  
(317) 544-3890  
[Sharon.Swanson@dcs.in.gov](mailto:Sharon.Swanson@dcs.in.gov)
- Ivraline Applewhite**  
661 Broadway  
Gary, Indiana 46402  
(219) 881-2043, ext: 13280  
[Ivraline.applewhite@dcs.in.gov](mailto:Ivraline.applewhite@dcs.in.gov)
- Krysta Young**  
201 East Rudisill Avenue  
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46806  
(260) 458-6498, ext: 10373  
[krysta.young@dcs.in.gov](mailto:krysta.young@dcs.in.gov)
- Denise Halliburton**  
953 Monument Drive  
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- Marty Ogden**  
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(812) 663-6768, ext: 12954  
[marjorie.ogden@dcs.in.gov](mailto:marjorie.ogden@dcs.in.gov)
- Beth Dillon**  
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[elizabeth.dillon@dcs.in.gov](mailto:elizabeth.dillon@dcs.in.gov)
- Brenda Stoner**  
4 North East 21st Street  
Washington, Indiana 47501  
(812) 254-0024, ext: 12191  
[brenda.stoner@dcs.in.gov](mailto:brenda.stoner@dcs.in.gov)

[www.IN.gov/dcs](http://www.IN.gov/dcs)

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JAMES W. PAYNE, DIRECTOR

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is available in this book on  
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